

# CIRCUIT COURT OF SOUTH DAKOTA

FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

PO BOX 626

Deadwood, SD 57732-0626

Phone (605) 578-2044 - Fax (605) 578-3613

## Presiding Judge

Hon. Warren G. Johnson

## Circuit Court Administrator

Bernie Lungren

### FOURTH CIRCUIT POLICY #06-07

#### **Court Appearances by Phone**

The Court is receiving more and more requests from counsel and/or parties to an action that they or witnesses be allowed to appear for court proceedings via the telephone. The following will be the policy for telephonic court appearances in the Fourth Circuit.

- Counsel and/or parties may appear by phone for NON-RECORD scheduling conferences or status hearings in Circuit Court without the Court's prior permission. Permission to appear in Circuit Court by phone for any other type of hearing where a record is required, i.e. motions hearing, summary judgment hearing, etc., must be approved by the Judge in advance. Permission to appear in Magistrate Court by telephone must be approved by the Judge in advance for all hearings. The person(s) requesting to appear by phone must place the call directly to the scheduler/clerk and they will be transferred into the courtroom or chambers. The Court has the capability of connecting and transferring two parties to the judge - if more than two parties wish to appear by phone, arrangements must be made through a conference operator.
- If permission has been granted that witnesses may appear by telephone either for grand jury proceedings or court proceedings, the person requesting that the witness appear by phone must arrange the call through a conference operator. The call should be placed to the scheduler/clerk who will transfer it into the grand jury room, courtroom or chambers.

- If a State telephone is used to place a long distance call; the requesting party must use a telephone credit card or bill the charges directly to the requester's address.

Dated this 9th day of January, 2006.

Warren G. Johnson  
Presiding Judge  
Fourth Judicial Circuit

Adopted 8/04