

FILED

APR 13 2023

ANGIE SPARKS, Clerk of District Court
By *[Signature]* Deputy Clerk

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MONTANA FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY

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| <p>RIKKI HELD, et al., Plaintiffs, v. STATE OF MONTANA, et al., Defendants.</p> | <p>Cause No.: CDV-2020-307 Honorable Kathy Seeley DEFENDANTS' REQUEST FOR STATUS CONFERENCE</p> |
|---|---|

Defendants hereby request that the Court schedule a status conference at its earliest convenience to address the following matters prior to the April 27, 2023 pretrial conference:

- Whether the Court will hear oral argument on the parties' pending motions, and if so, when;
- The Court's expectations regarding the parties' preparation and submission of the proposed Pretrial Order;

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- The specific matters to be addressed at the April 27, 2023 pretrial conference to facilitate the parties' preparation for the same; and
- Any other matters as appropriate.

The final pretrial conference set for April 27, 2023, occurs more than a month before the trial set in this matter. The parties have filed several dispositive and evidentiary motions that significantly impact how the parties must prepare for trial. In order for the parties to adequately prepare their respective cases, the parties need guidance from the Court on what issues remain for trial and what evidence may or may not be introduced. The parties further require guidance on whether the Court will set oral argument on the outstanding motions as requested, and whether the Court expects the parties to prepare a final pretrial order without resolution of the pending issues. Without the Court's guidance, the parties will suffer prejudice in having to prepare for a trial without having significant legal and evidentiary issues resolved. Defendants therefore respectfully request that the Court set a status conference ahead of the April 27, 2023, pretrial conference to discuss these issues with the parties. Defendants' counsel has contacted counsel for Plaintiffs, and they take no position regarding this Request.

Dated this 11th day of April, 2023.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify a true and correct copy of the foregoing was delivered by email to the following:

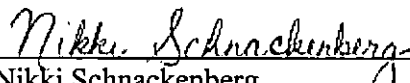
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Date: April 11, 2023



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