

<p>EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT: ARAPAHOE, DOUGLAS, ELBERT and LINCOLN COUNTIES, COLORADO</p> <p>Arapahoe County Justice Center 7325 South Potomac Street Centennial, Colorado 80112</p> <p>Arapahoe County Courthouse 1790 West Littleton Boulevard Littleton, Colorado 80120</p> <p>Douglas County Courthouse 4000 Justice Way, #2009 Castle Rock, Colorado 80109</p> <p>Elbert County Courthouse PO Box 232, 751 Ute Street Kiowa, Colorado 80117</p> <p>Lincoln County Courthouse PO Box 128, 103 Third Avenue Hugo, Colorado 80821</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">COURT USE ONLY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CJO 23-11 September 1, 2023</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Division: 201, Arapahoe County</p>
<p>CHIEF JUDGE ORDER 23-11 ASSIGNING DISTRICT COURT AND QUALIFIED COUNTY COURT JUDGES TO SIT INTERCHANGEABLY THROUGHOUT THE EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT</p>	

Pursuant to C.R.S. § 13-6-218, “[a]ny county judge or retired county judge who has been licensed to practice law in this state for five years may be assigned by the chief justice of the supreme court, pursuant to section 5(3) of article VI of the state constitution, to perform judicial duties in any district court.” C.R.S. § 13-6-218; *see also* Colo. Const. art. VI, § 5(3). Chief Justice Directive (“CJD”) 95-01, “Authority and Responsibility of Chief Judges,” delegates certain authority to the chief judges regarding the assignment of judges. Specifically, CJD 95-01 delegates

authority to the chief judges in that “[d]istrict judges may be assigned to any district or county court within the district when necessary” and “[q]ualified county judges may be assigned to any court in the district when necessary, pursuant to section 13-6-218, C.R.S. (2019).” CJD 95-01 §4(a).

Accordingly, pursuant to the authority granted to chief judges of the judicial districts of the State of Colorado by CJD 95-01, the undersigned, in her capacity as Chief Judge of the Eighteenth Judicial District, enters the following Chief Judge Order (“CJO”). It is hereby ordered that:

1. District court judges of the Eighteenth Judicial District are assigned to any case in any district or county court within the District when necessary.
2. Qualified¹ county court judges of the Eighteenth Judicial District are assigned to any county court case in any county court within the District when necessary.
3. Qualified county court judges of the Eighteenth Judicial District are assigned to certain district court cases, including domestic, civil, juvenile², probate, and/or mental health cases, in any district court within the District when necessary.
4. Qualified county court judges of the Eighteenth Judicial District are assigned to the below listed criminal cases in any district court within the District when necessary:

¹ Pursuant to C.R.S. § 13-6-218, a qualified county court judge is “[a]ny county judge or retired county judge who has been licensed to practice law in this state for five years.” This statutory definition of “qualified county court judge” applies throughout this CJO 23-11.

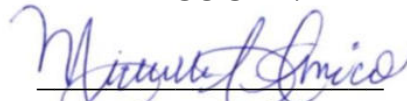
² As used here, juvenile dockets include any case proceeding under Title 19.

- a. All qualified county court judges are appointed to accept pleas of guilty and impose sentences or grant deferred judgments and sentences in all class four felony, class five felony, class six felony, level three drug felony, and level four drug felony cases. Additionally, qualified county court judges may accept admissions of violations of probation and impose sentences on outstanding probation revocations when the original guilty plea was to a class four felony, class five felony, class six felony, level three drug felony, level four drug felony, or any misdemeanor offense. The qualified county court judge presiding over such pleas may decline to exercise this authority in his or her sole discretion. The qualified county court judge is not authorized to accept a plea of guilty and impose sentences on any crime of violence or felony sex offense.
- b. A qualified county court judge shall bind the matter over to the district court and then assume the role of a district court judge prior to accepting a plea of guilty or granting a deferred judgment for a felony offense listed above in subsection 4a. *See People v. Vargas-Reyes*, 434 P.3d 1198, 1201 (Colo. App. 2018).

This CJO 23-11 replaces CJO 21-05 Assigning District Court and Qualified County Court Judges to Sit Interchangeably Throughout the Eighteenth Judicial District.

Dated this 1st day of September, 2023.

BY THE COURT:



Michelle A. Amico

Chief Judge

Eighteenth Judicial District