
IN THE SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
IN AND FOR GARFIELD, KANE, SANPETE, SEVIER, PIUTE AND WAYNE
COUNTIES, STATE OF UTAH

<p>In Re: Requests for Electronic Media Coverage of Court Proceedings</p> <p>Requesting Parties: Eric Johnson aka Eric K Johnson, Brian Godfrey aka Brian N Godfrey, Utah Family Law and Publaxs.</p>	<p>STANDING ORDER DENYING REQUESTS FOR ELECTRONIC MEDIA COVERAGE</p> <p>Presiding Judge Marvin D Bagley Associate Presiding Judge Wallace A Lee Juvenile Presiding Judge Brody L Keisel</p>
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This Court has frequently reviewed numerous Requests for Electronic Media Coverage of Court Proceedings ("Requests") by the above-referenced parties ("Requesting Parties") and has, for the most part, denied them. The reasons for denying these Requests have not changed and are not likely to change. When the Court has granted a Request, the Requesting Parties did not, for the most part, actually show up at the requested hearing. This Court is aware that Standing Orders denying similar repeated requests have been issued in more than one of Utah's other judicial districts. The Court therefore enters this Standing Order as follows:

There is a presumption in favor of permitting electronic media coverage for proceedings open to the public. Utah R. Jud. Admin. 4-401.01(2). However, that presumption only exists when the electronic media coverage is "by a news reporter." Id. at 4-401.01(2)(A). The Requesting Parties provide only self-serving and conclusory assertions regarding their status as news reporters, which are insufficient to demonstrate the Requesting Parties fall within the definition of a "news reporter." See id. at 4-401.01(1)(D).¹ The Requesting Parties have failed to show that the presumption in favor of permitting electronic media coverage should apply.

Even if the presumption applies to the Requesting Parties and their Requests, the Court has sufficient reasons for prohibiting electronic coverage of the proceedings which are sufficiently compelling so as to overcome the presumption.

This court finds that the nature of domestic relations cases is often highly contentious, and the nature of that contention can involve and negatively affect the family -- hence their


¹ In case number 084400080 Fourth Judicial District Judge Christine Johnson entered a Ruling on Request for Electronic Media Coverage. Judge Johnson provided specific reasons as to why the Requesting Parties are not media persons or news reporters under the rules. Having reviewed this prior order, the Court finds that the reasoning set forth in Judge Johnson's ruling remains sound.

classification as private pursuant to Rule 4-202.02 of the Utah Code of Judicial Administration. The fact that domestic cases have been made private reflects the public policy that issues regarding parties' personal finances and family matters should be given additional protection, absent particular newsworthiness of the matter. Oftentimes, domestic cases involve the interests of children, and the court is particularly concerned about the use and dissemination of information regarding children.²


Furthermore, the Requests lack assertions that the cases or proceedings are known to have notoriety in the public forum or involve parties who are public figures. The public interest in and the newsworthiness of such proceedings is therefore minimal, with any potentially beneficial effects of allowing publication of these otherwise private proceedings similarly low. See Utah Code Jud. Admin. R. 4-401.01(2)(B)(vii)-(viii). Ultimately, given the sensitive and personal nature of domestic cases generally, and in the cases listed in these Requests in particular, the requested electronic media coverage will create adverse effects greater than those caused by media coverage without recording or retransmitting images or sound and will constitute an unwarranted invasion of the parties' privacy. See *id.* at 4-401.01(2)(B)(iv)-(v). For these reasons, requests by the Requesting Parties have been, for the most part, denied repeatedly, year after year. Rather than continue with the frequent and time-consuming routine of request review and denial, or the Requesting Party failing to appear at all for the hearing after being approved, the Court now rules as follows:

BY STANDING ORDER, the Sixth Judicial District Court will no longer consider Electronic Media Coverage requests from these Requesting Parties.

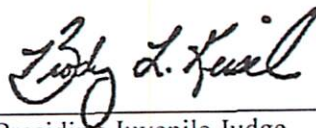
DATED this 8th day of July, 2021.



Presiding Judge
Marvin D Bagley



Associate Presiding Judge
Wallace A Lee



Presiding Juvenile Judge
Brody L Keisel



² Notably, these Requests lack assertions that the parties in the respective cases have consented to electronic media coverage of the proceedings.