



Chief Judge Order 17-05 (Amended): Use of Court Reporters in Criminal Cases

Pursuant to Chief Justice Directive 05-03 (as amended) “the chief judge of each judicial district shall determine which methods of recording court proceedings are to be used based upon current economic issues, availability of reporters, and other relevant factors.”

Nearly twenty years ago, the Chief Judge at that time decided to replace real-time court reporters with an electronic record (audio recording). That decision was not memorialized by a Chief Judge Directive. This decision still makes sense. The 11th Judicial District has not budgeted for real-time court reporters in many years and it is more cost efficient to use an electronic record.

The 11th Judicial District has invested significant funds in upgrading our electronic recording equipment and audio systems in all of the courtrooms in the District. These courtrooms will also receive (or have already received) a significant upgrade of audio and visual technologies, further enhancing the ability to keep an accurate and readily accessible electronic record.

Further, there are few to no Registered Court Reporters living within the 11th Judicial District. Bringing in a Registered Court Reporter from outside the district or relying on a virtual live court reporter adds significant expense while adding little to no additional assurance that an accurate and accessible court record can be made.

Therefore, in all criminal cases, the record will be captured using an electronic record. If the parties or a judge believe a particular criminal case that has a class one or class two felony charge requires a real time court reporter, that request can be made and will be reviewed by the Chief Judge. Such a decision will be made on the particular facts of the case and in light of current economic issues, availability of reporters, and other relevant factors.

The Clerk of Court for the respective County is the custodian of the audio record. Otherwise, the provisions of Chief Justice Directive 05-03 (as amended) apply.

Done in Salida, Colorado, this 12th day of March 2026.

/s/ Amanda Hunter, Chief Judge, 11th Judicial District