

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25
- 26
- 27

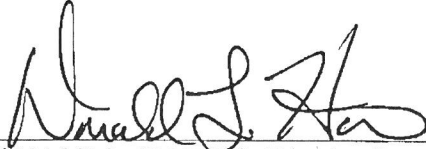
) CAUSE NO. SB 2021-1
)
) JUDGE DONALD L. HARRIS
)
)
) **ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE**
)
)
)
)

Mont. Code Ann. § 47-1-104 provides that the Office of State Public Defender shall be supervised by a director who is responsible for establishing protocols to ensure that qualified attorneys are immediately assigned to all cases to which the Public Defender's office has been

1 assigned. For months, the Office of State Public Defender has failed to immediately assign
2 counsel to cases pending in the 13th Judicial District to which the Public Defender's office has
3 been appointed. This failure has caused significant delays in conducting court proceedings and
4 jeopardizes the administration of justice.

5
6 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Rhonda Lindquist, Director of the State Office of Public
7 Defender, shall appear before this Court on **Monday, September 13, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.** in
8 Courtroom TBD of the Yellowstone County Courthouse, to show cause, if any, why she should
9 not be held in contempt for the State Office of Public Defender's failure to immediately assign
10 counsel to all cases in the 13th Judicial District Court for Yellowstone County to which the public
11 defender's office has been assigned as ordered by the Court.

12
13 DATED this 17th day of August, 2021.

14
15 
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
DONALD L. HARRIS, District Court Judge