

# Virtual and In-Person Appearances for Criminal Matters

## 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District Court Order - Courtroom/Division 4

**Parties are encouraged to appear in-person for all hearings and court matters.** The Court has found in-person appearances to be best as parties can easily communicate with each other and the Court. All courtrooms are routinely sanitized & masks are available upon request.

As outlined below, parties may appear virtually through an Interactive Audio/Video Device using **Web Ex Meeting ID 2592 401 1435** when necessary. Audio or video recording is strictly prohibited.

Those who wish to simply observe do not need Court permission to appear virtually. Please note the Court may not have Web Ex available for all hearings.

**Defendants with active warrants may not appear virtually without prior Court permission.**

**Parties may appear virtually without prior Court permission for all hearings except:**

- Preliminary Hearings
- Motion Hearings
- Entries of Guilty Plea
- Sentencing Hearings
- Trials

**Attorneys, defendants, and witnesses are expected to use an Interactive Device with both audio and video capabilities.** Audio-only appearances may be allowed only where a party demonstrates a lack of available high-speed internet or necessary bandwidth.

Virtual appearances may be allowed without prior Court permission when based on unforeseen events including inclement weather or illness. Parties are encouraged to notify Court staff prior to hearing when such circumstances arise.

**The Court has discretion to require in-person appearances for any reason.**

In-person appearances may be required when:

- The Court determines, on a hearing-by-hearing basis, that the in-person appearance of a party or witness would materially assist in the determination of the proceeding, or in the management or resolution of the case.
- The quality of technology or sound interferes with any of the following:
  - The Court's effective management or resolution of the matter.
  - Counsel's ability to provide effective representation.
  - The Court's ability to maintain an accurate record; or
  - An interpreter's ability to provide language services.
- A party opposes the request and asserts written reasons why remote testimony or appearances should not be allowed.