**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.

**Virtual appearances are also available using Web Ex. Please use the following Meeting IDs:**

**MONTEZUMA COUNTY** DISTRICT COURT CRIMINAL CASES - **Meeting ID 2592 401 1435**

**DOLORES COUNTY** DISTRICT COURT CRIMINAL CASES - **Meeting ID 2598 397 5243**

**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
* Motions Hearing (that require sworn testimony)
* Sentencing Hearings
* Trials

**The Court has discretion to require in-person appearances for any reason.** Audio or video recording is strictly prohibited.

**Attorneys, defendants, and witnesses are expected to use both audio and video capabilities.** For hearings not mentioned above, audio-only appearances *may* be allowed where a party demonstrates a lack of available high-speed internet or necessary bandwidth.

Where appropriate, the Court will seek the defendant’s consent to appear virtually for proceedings outlined in *Colorado Rule of Criminal Procedure Rule 43(e)(3).*

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

**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.