

RULE 2.2: REMOTE APPEARANCES

- A. This Local Rule is adopted pursuant to Civil Code of Procedure section 367.75 and California Rule of Court, rule 3.672. Notice requirements are set forth in rule 3.672.
- B. The court strongly encourages remote appearances and may require remote appearances for specific hearings by its own motion. All courtrooms are equipped with audio visual technology to support remote appearances.
- C. The court has two remote appearance platforms available: Zoom and CourtCall. The Zoom platform supports both video and audio capabilities while the CourtCall platform supports audio only. Zoom and CourtCall can be used concurrently during proceedings. Fees may be applicable for appearances through CourtCall. Appearances through Zoom are available at no cost.
- D. Remote appearances in contested hearings must be by video. Audio only appearances are not permitted for these hearing types.
- E. Any recording, reproduction, or re-broadcasting of a court proceeding held remotely, including screenshots or other visual or audio copying of a hearing, is prohibited.
- F. Participants appearing remotely will be provided the video access meeting link, the telephonic access information, or be added to the telephonic list, depending on the specific hearing type. The court may provide remote access information to the applicable participants by email, for those participants who have consented to email, or by telephone. Participants are not permitted to disclose the remote access credentials to any other person.
- G. Nothing in this rule limits the discretion of the judicial officer to elect to appear in-person in the courtroom or to elect to appear remotely in the courtroom.
- H. Remote Appearances in Non-Criminal Proceedings:
 - 1. Civil, Small Claims, Family Law, and Probate:
 - a. The court will presume that parties set for a hearing in these Non-Criminal proceedings will be appearing in person unless the person participating in the hearing requests, or notifies the Court of their intention, to appear

remotely, or the Court has ordered a remote appearance on its own motion, by tentative ruling, probate notes, or by Local Rule.

- b. A remote appearance will not be permitted if the tentative ruling or probate notes posted for the hearing states that a personal appearance is required, or the court advises the person requesting to appear remotely that the judicial officer has determined that an in-person appearance is necessary to assist the determination of the hearing in question.
- c. Each judicial officer may, on their own motion, order that a trial or evidentiary hearing, at which witnesses will be sworn and testimony received, will be conducted remotely, unless an objecting party establishes that a remote appearance or testimony should not be allowed or a party fails to consent to the witness's remote appearance. An expert witness may appear remotely absent a showing by an objecting party that there is good cause to compel in-person testimony.
- d. Even when a remote appearance is authorized and commences, the judicial officer may terminate a remote appearance and continue the matter so that an in-person appearance can occur if technology or audibility issues interfere with the judicial officer's ability to make a determination required by the hearing, the in-person appearance is necessary to assist in the determination of the specific hearing, the court reporter's ability to make an accurate record, counsel's ability to provide effective representation, or an interpreter's ability to provide language access.

2. Remote Appearances in Juvenile Dependency Proceedings:

- a. All statutory confidentiality requirements applicable to Juvenile Dependency proceedings held in person apply equally to remote proceedings.
- b. Notwithstanding the rule regarding remote trials or evidentiary hearings in non-criminal matters, a judicial officer may not require a party to appear remotely in a Juvenile Dependency matter, and a witness, including a party providing testimony, may only appear remotely with the consent of all parties.
- c. Any proceeding may be conducted in whole or in part as a remote proceeding, and any person entitled to be present, not only a named party

or person subject to discovery, may appear remotely absent an order granting a request by a party to compel the physical presence of a witness.

- d. Any person entitled to be present under rule 5.530(b) or authorized by court order, other than witnesses, may request to appear remotely using any means, oral or written, that is reasonably calculated to ensure receipt by the court no later than the time the case is called for hearing.
- e. Notwithstanding the other provisions of this Local Rule, California Rule of Court, or Code of Civil Procedure section 367.75, a party may ask the Court to appear remotely without notice or a timely request. The Court may permit the remote appearance upon a finding of good cause, unforeseen circumstances, or that allowing the remote appearance would promote access to justice.

I. Remote Appearances in Criminal Proceedings, which includes Traffic, Misdemeanor, Felony, and Juvenile Delinquency matters:

- 1. Remote appearances are permitted, and may be required, pursuant to California Rule of Court, Emergency Rule 3.

(Eff. 7/1/17; Rev. & Renum. 7/1/18; Rev. 1/1/19, 7/1/20; 7/1/21, 1/1/22)