

# IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

## ORDER NO. 2018

### Expectations of Participants in Remote Proceedings.

Supreme Court Order [2012](#) identifies hearings that may be held remotely and those that should ordinarily be held in person in a courtroom with parties present. Presumptively remote proceedings will preferably be held by video conference; however, whether by video or telephone, remote hearings have proven to be a useful alternative to in-person court hearings. Participants are expected to conduct themselves the same way in remote hearings as they would in person. The rules below therefore apply to remote proceedings:

### **IT IS ORDERED:**

Expectations of All Court Users. All court users are expected to comply with the standards listed below.

**Standard 1:** The same rules for courtroom behavior apply in remote hearings. This means:

1. Wear appropriate clothing if you are appearing by video;
2. Attend the hearing from a quiet place, free of distractions;
3. Do not eat, smoke, or vape;
4. Turn off all televisions, radios, and audio players during the hearing.

**Standard 2:** Disruptive conduct may result in the judge rescheduling your hearing. Disruptive conduct includes:

1. Driving;
2. Repeatedly interrupting or speaking out of turn;

3. Background noise that suggests you are not attending the hearing from a quiet place.

**Standard 3:** The following practices should always be followed:

1. Use your first and last name in your on-screen profile;
2. Mute yourself when it is not your turn to speak;
3. Attend the hearing by video when possible. If you cannot attend a hearing by video, always identify yourself when speaking;
4. Tell the judge if you expect any unavoidable interruptions and try your best to minimize them while speaking;
5. If you are attending by video, do not use the chat function to communicate with the judge unless you need to inform the judge that you are having technical difficulties;
6. If you are attending by video, sit upright at a table or desk unless a medical reason or disability makes it hard to do so. Secure your camera so that it remains steady.

Expectations for Attorneys. In addition to the expectations for all court users, attorneys appearing in remote hearings must follow the following standards.

**Standard 4:** Attorneys must:  
Ensure that clients and witnesses have video hearing information, are able to participate in the remote hearing, and comply with the standards for all court participants.

**Standard 5:** Unless excused by the judge, attorneys must:

1. Appear for all remote hearings by video;
2. Appear for all remote hearings from a private, quiet office space with a quality microphone;

3. Leave the camera on and remain in the frame for the duration of the proceedings.

Enforcement. Judges have the authority to maintain order and decorum. Judges may, when necessary, remove participants from remote proceedings and require future in-person participation for failure to comply with these standards.

Zoom Hearing FAQs. See <https://courts.alaska.gov/trialcourts/zoom-faq.htm> for frequently asked questions about Zoom hearings, including information about equipment needed, recommended Zoom settings, and tips for successful virtual court proceedings.

DATED: January 2, 2024

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 2, 2024

/s/  
Chief Justice Maassen

/s/  
Justice Carney

/s/  
Justice Borghesan

/s/  
Justice Henderson

/s/  
Justice Pate