

JEFFERSON FAMILY COURT REMOTE APPEARANCES

1. All court facilities are open to individuals with business before the courts. Appearances are in person unless a remote appearance is requested and approved by the court.
2. Judges retain the discretion to require individuals in the courtroom to use facial coverings generally or in specific cases, particularly cases involving persons who are at an increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19
3. Judges retain the discretion to limit the number of people or to enforce social distancing in a courtroom as health and safety conditions or circumstances necessitate.
4. Courts are encouraged to continue hearing civil and criminal matters using available telephonic and video technology to conduct proceedings remotely. Any remote proceedings shall be scheduled through the judge's office.
5. Any individual currently scheduled to appear remotely for a court proceeding shall be allowed to appear remotely.
6. If a judge determines in his or her discretion to conduct in-person court proceedings, the following individuals must be allowed to participate remotely or be provided with a reasonable accommodation if appearing in person:
 - a. Individuals who have symptoms of COVID-19 as identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") (cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, headache, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, or new loss of taste or smell);
 - b. Individuals who are currently self-quarantined as directed by any doctor, hospital, or health agency;
 - c. Individuals who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the past 14 days;
 - d. Individuals who are not fully vaccinated and have had close contact within the past 14 days with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 at the time of close contact; or
 - e. Individuals who the CDC recommends should limit their interactions with the public, including those who are unvaccinated and are at an increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19.
7. In addition to the criteria enumerated in Section 6, parties may request a remote appearance for the following types of court appearances:
 - a. Motion Hour
 - b. Non evidentiary case management conferences and reviews
 - c. Any other hearing by agreement of the parties and approval of the court
8. Remote appearances for District Court proceedings (paternity, domestic violence and dependency, neglect and abuse (DNA) dockets) shall be determined by each division. A remote appearance grid will be added to our website by division.