

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
CORPUS CHRISTI DIVISION

IN RE: REMOTE COURT §
PROCEEDINGS IN THE CORPUS §
CHRISTI DIVISION §

**ORDER Regarding Zoom Video Conference
with the Courts of the Corpus Christi Division, Southern District of Texas**

Important:

- Each Court will independently consider the circumstances and issues pertinent to each case and will decide whether the proceeding will take place via Zoom, by telephone, or in person.
- Persons granted remote access to proceedings are reminded of the general prohibition against photographing, recording, or rebroadcasting of federal court proceedings (including those held by telephone or videoconference). Recording of a federal court proceeding held by video or teleconference is strictly prohibited. Violation of these rules may result in the denial of entry to future hearings or any other sanction deemed necessary by the Court.
- Other than invited participants, no additional parties will be admitted to the call without prior approval by the Court. Do not forward the Zoom invite to non-speaking colleagues/persons or post on public forums.
- Any member of the public wishing access to the proceeding may obtain that access by emailing a request to ccmagduty@txs.uscourts.gov. Instructions for how to participate will be forwarded by return email. Any questions as to how one may participate may be directed to the Clerk of Court for the SDTX, Corpus Christi Division, at 361-888-3142. It is suggested that anyone wishing to participate prepare to access the teleconference at least fifteen minutes before start time to allow sufficient time to address any problems that may arise with participation.

Anyone participating in the Zoom call is ORDERED to comply with the following:

- Participants shall follow appropriate courtroom etiquette.
- Dress with dignity. Only business or business casual attire is appropriate.
- Appear at an appropriate non-public location where the participant can focus without distraction. Public, noisy, and echoing locations are not appropriate, such as a vehicle or public restaurant.

- Mute your phone and all sounds from all other applications, including email notifications and chat messaging.
- Avoid using devices such as laptops, tablets, or smartphones while only using battery power. Plug into a good power source while in a Zoom meeting.
- Unless you have confirmed the quality is adequate, avoid using an open microphone and speakers, such as a webcam mic or those built into laptops. Using a good quality headset (headphones with mic) will often help ensure you can be heard and can hear others with maximum quality.
- Avoid poor camera positioning (if possible).
- Ensure that lighting is adequate. Avoid backlit light sources.
- Make sure your background is clear of clutter and identifying information such as personal photos.

Exhibits – if applicable:

Counsel are responsible for sharing of exhibits during a hearing. If you anticipate displaying exhibit(s) during a hearing, Zoom support has a comprehensive guide on screen sharing posted on their web site.

Participants in a Zoom video conference with the Court (attorney, witness, case party, etc.) must prepare properly to ensure that all involved will have a good experience using this system. For security and enforcement of court standards, the Court may disable Zoom interactions such as chat, screen share, whiteboard, or any other feature that is unnecessary to conduct a hearing.

*By Order of the Court
July 1, 2020*