

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY – JUDGE CRAWFORD’S PROCEDURES FOR JULY HEARINGS:

We have been instructed by the Chief Judge to continue doing hearings via Teams, specifically large dockets such as Docket sounding, Calendar Call, VOP Arraignments **until further notice.**

We are limited to the amount of time we are given to address inmates via Microsoft Teams. Attorneys are permitted to excuse their client’s appearance on the record for in-custody and out-of-custody defendants.

If you have a hearing set that you believe must be in person, you must check with me first at least 48 hours prior to the hearing. The Judge will make a decision to allow you in the courtroom, or not, based on your reasons for such.

Please be mindful when making this request, we cannot have large crowds accumulate at the entrance or inside of the courthouse. It is a safety issue, i.e. social distancing. Litigants entering the courthouse must bring proper photo identification. Anyone entering the courthouse must wear a face mask.

Thanks everyone and stay safe!

INSTRUCTIONS FOR REMOTE ACCESS COURT HEARINGS FOR JUNE 2020

JUDGE CHARLES CRAWFORD

(DO NOT COME TO THE COURTHOUSE UNLESS YOU ARE A PRO-SE DEFENDANT WITHOUT ACCESS TO MICROSOFT TEAMS)

The Workgroup on the Continuity of Court Operations and Proceedings During and After COVID-19 has determined that the following proceedings are amenable to being conducted remotely:

- (1) Alternative dispute resolution proceedings;
- (2) Status, case management, and pretrial conferences in all case types;
- (3) Non-evidentiary and evidentiary motion hearings in all case types;
- (4) Arraignments and pleas in absentia in county court misdemeanor cases;

It is hereby ordered that each of the above-listed proceedings **shall** be conducted using telephonic or other electronic means available in the subject jurisdiction unless a judge determines that remote conduct of the proceeding:

Is inconsistent with the United States or Florida Constitution, a statute, or a rule of court that has not been suspended by administrative order; or would be infeasible because the court, the clerk, or other participant in a proceeding lacks the technological resources necessary to conduct the proceeding or, for reasons directly related to the state of emergency or the public health emergency, lacks the staff resources necessary to conduct the proceeding.

Limits on In-person Hearings. No proceedings or other court events other than essential proceedings and proceedings critical to the state of emergency or the public health emergency shall be conducted through in-person hearings.

Procedure

- All hearings including calendar call, docket sounding, any evidentiary hearing, arraignments and pleas/sentencings will be conducted via Microsoft Teams. You may access the app through your computer or phone.
- You will receive an email link from the Judicial Assistant inviting you to “Join Microsoft Teams Meeting”.
- Familiarize yourself with Microsoft Teams before the hearing.
- Attorneys will make arrangements for their witnesses to appear from their office or provide the Microsoft Team login information given by the JA if they attend from another location. All witnesses will need a valid I.D.
- All Defendants will be excused from docket soundings and arraignments if attorney waives their presence in advance or on the record.
- The parties shall make an attempt to stipulate to any exhibits that will be used during the hearing. All exhibits shall be marked and provided to the Court 48 hours prior to the hearing. If the parties cannot stipulate to a particular exhibit, please indicate that there is no agreement and it will be addressed at the hearing.

If you have any questions, please contact Karenina Milad. karenina.milad@flcourts18.org