

Virtual or Telephonic Court Hearings Research Guide

Overview

This research guide includes information and resources on virtual or telephonic court hearings. These can also be called videoconferences, teleconferences, remote, or electronic court hearings. Court hearings held over by video, often Zoom, or by telephone are becoming more widely used in response to the coronavirus pandemic. Judges may have different rules on virtual or telephonic hearings, so check with your court coordinator to learn about the rules for your court. The resources listed below are not exhaustive and may not include the most up-to-date information. It is for information purposes only and should not be construed as legal advice or act as the substitute for legal counsel.

Statutes and Codes

Texas Statutes Online www.statutes.capitol.texas.gov

Texas Rules of Civil Procedure (TRCP)
<https://www.txcourts.gov/rules-forms/rules-standards/>

- Rule 21d Appearance at Court Proceedings

Secondary Resources in Print

Texas Litigation Guide KFT 1730.T4

- Vol. 6, Ch. 94 §94.02[3], [8][c] and §94.06[4] Deposition taken by videoconferencing
- Vol. 6, Ch. 99 §99.20[3][g] Deposition taken by videoconferencing
- Vol. 22, Ch. 370 §370.10[1][c] SAPCR proceeding involving abuse of child, professional testimony by videoconference in

CLE Materials

Advanced Trial Strategies KFT 1737.A75

- 2021 Ch. 2 Upping Your Skills in Zoom
- 2021 Ch. 5 Preparing for the Virtual Trial
- 2021 Ch. 6 Preparing to Present Virtual Evidence: Skills, Materials and Strategies

Advanced Family Law Course KFT 1294.S83

- 2021 Ch. 67 Voir Dire in the Age of Zoom and Beyond

Online Resources

General:

- I Want to Appear in Family Court Remotely (Texas Law Help)
<https://texaslawhelp.org/guide/i-want-to-appear-in-family-court-remotely>
- Virtual Court (Texas Law Help)
<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/virtual-court>
- Rules of Evidence and Objections in a Virtual Hearing (Texas Law Help)
<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/responding-to-discovery-requests>
- I need to question an opposing witness in a virtual hearing (Texas Law Help)
<https://texaslawhelp.org/guide/i-need-to-question-an-opposing-witness-in-a-virtual-hearing>
- Zoom (Texas Law Help)
<https://texaslawhelp.org/virtual-court/virtual-court-technology/zoom>
- Telephonic Court (Texas Law Help)
<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/if-i-cant-get-to-court-can-i-participate-by-telephone>
- Court Call (Texas Law Help)
<https://texaslawhelp.org/virtual-court/virtual-court-technology/court-call>

- Electronic Hearings (Zoom) (Texas Judicial Branch)
<https://www.txcourts.gov/programs-services/electronic-hearings-zoom/>
- Attend a Virtual Hearing or Mediation (State Office of Administrative Hearings)
- <https://www.soah.texas.gov/attend-virtual-hearing-or-mediation>
- Remote Proceeding Toolkit (Natl. Center for State Courts)
https://www.ncsc.org/_data/assets/pdf_file/0027/82377/Remote-Proceeding-Toolkit-Final.pdf

Local Remote Hearing Procedures:

- Tarrant County Civil District Courts
<https://texaslawhelp.org/guide/tarrant-county-civil-district-courts>
- Tarrant County Family District Courts
<https://texaslawhelp.org/guide/tarrant-county-family-district-courts>
- Tarrant County Courts at Law
<https://texaslawhelp.org/guide/tarrant-county-courts-at-law>
- Virtual Court Appearance - Municipal Court Fort Worth
<https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/departments/municipal-court/virtual-court>
- Justice of the Peace Pct. 1 E-Court Video Conference Request
<https://www.tarrantcountytexas.gov/en/justice-of-the-peace-courts/justice-1/e-court/e-court-video-conference-request.html>
- Justice of the Peace Pct. 1 E-Court/E-Hearing Docket
<https://www.tarrantcountytexas.gov/en/justice-of-the-peace-courts/justice-1/e-court/e-court-e-hearing-docket.html>
- Justice Court 6 Remote Hearings – Zoom Etiquette
<https://www.tarrantcountytexas.gov/en/justice-of-the-peace-courts/justice-6/justice-court-6-remote-hearings.html>
- 231st Associate Court Rules for Remote Hearings
<https://www.tarrantcountytexas.gov/content/dam/main/family-courts/231stFDC/documents/231stAssociateCourtRules-forRemoteHearings10.1.2020.pdf>

- 231st District Court Rules for Remote Hearings
<https://www.tarrantcountytexas.gov/content/dam/main/family-courts/231stFDC/documents/231stDistrictCourtRules-forRemoteHearings10.1.2020.pdf>
- 67th District Court Remote Hearing Procedures
<https://www.tarrantcountytexas.gov/content/dam/main/civil-courts/DistrictCourts/67thCDC/67thDistrictCourtRemoteHearingProcedures.pdf>
- 352nd District Court Remote Hearing Procedures
<https://www.tarrantcountytexas.gov/content/dam/main/civil-courts/DistrictCourts/352ndCDC/352RemoteHearingProcedures.pdf>
- County Court at Law #3 Remote Hearing Procedure
<https://www.tarrantcountytexas.gov/content/dam/main/civil-courts/CountyCourts/CCL3/Documents/CourtRulesforRemoteHearings.pdf>

Legal Assistance

Legal Lines – Ask Attorneys simple legal questions (free service)

- Tarrant County LegalLine Sign-up
<https://www.tarrantbar.org/>
- Dallas County LegalLine Sign-up
<https://www.dallasbar.org/index.cfm?pg=legalline>

Tarrant County Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service: 817-336-4101 (\$20 for the first 30 minutes)