

In the Iowa Supreme Court

In the Matter of Remote Judicial Proceedings

Order

In an effort to provide clarification and uniformity in Iowa courts, the supreme court issues this order regarding remote judicial proceedings. This order replaces all previous orders issued regarding remote court proceedings, including those contained in the amended December 6, 2021 order. This order is effective immediately and remains in effect until further order.

Nonappellate Court Proceedings

The court has the discretion to determine when a judicial proceeding will be held remotely or in person unless otherwise provided by law. Any decision on whether to hold a judicial proceeding remotely must be made on a case-by-case basis; courts should not have a standard practice of always having a particular proceeding occur in person or remotely.

All contested court proceedings are presumed to occur in person. A contested testimonial proceeding may occur by videoconference or telephone only with the consent of all parties and in the court's discretion.

Courts may direct, and parties may request, that uncontested court proceedings or contested nontestimonial court proceedings occur by videoconference or telephone if appropriate technology is available.

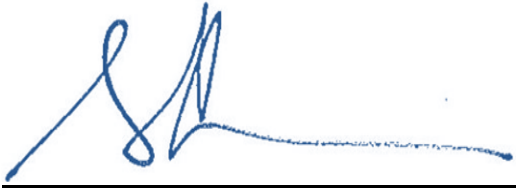
For routine, uncontested matters, courts are encouraged to utilize remote technology when available and when doing so does not prejudice a party. Any party may file a resistance to a proceeding being conducted remotely and request that the proceeding occur in person. If the court denies the request, the court shall state the reasons for the denial with particularity.

Appellate Court Proceedings

At the appellate court's discretion, oral arguments may be conducted using videoconference or telephone.

Dated this 4th day of November, 2022.

The Iowa Supreme Court

By: 

Susan Larson Christensen, Chief Justice