



The Supreme Court of Iowa

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November 4, 2022

Re: remote testimony and remote proceedings orders

COVID packed a punch in the judicial branch and required us to put safety precautions in place. While we want nothing more than to put COVID in the rearview mirror and move forward, something that should remain is our use of technology in the courtrooms. Today, the court issued two orders (attached to this email).

Remote proceedings order:

The use of technology is encouraged for routine, uncontested matters, when available and doing so does not prejudice a party. Any party may file a resistance to a proceeding being held remotely. If the request is denied, the court will state the reasons for the denial.

Remote testimony order:

Remote testimony during any court proceeding is allowed by consent of all parties, with the availability of appropriate technology and in the court's discretion unless otherwise provided by law.

Online tool kits:

To assist with the use of technology for remote proceedings or remote testimony, the judicial branch will provide individual online toolkits for judges, attorneys, court reporters, self-represented litigants, clients, parties, and witnesses. Virtual background images for judges, attorneys, and parties to use at the judge's discretion will also be provided.

The appropriate use of this technology will no doubt increase Iowans' access to justice while maximizing efficiency in the judicial branch. This is a unique

opportunity to embrace lasting innovations to court practices and improve access to the Iowa court system.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'S' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Susan Larson Christensen
Chief Justice, Iowa Supreme Court

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