

New Jersey Courts – Events Guidance

This document is intended to provide guidance as to how court events may proceed remotely.

- Court staff and event moderators will determine which technology to use for remote proceedings, taking into consideration the guidance below and the resources available to both the Judiciary and the participants.
- Video options are being offered to the greatest extent possible given available resources. Where video is permitted, a phone option may be used if appropriate or if a participant is unable to appear by video.
- Live broadcasting resources will be reserved for Criminal Division events.
 - Where live broadcast of an event is noted, Judges have discretion not to live broadcast an event pursuant to [Directive #12-20](#).
- Requests to observe a video event that is not live broadcast must be made in advance to the judge handling the case.
 - All observers must comply with the Supreme Court Guidelines on Media Access and Electronic Devices in the Courts ([Directive #11-20](#)).
- In order to ensure that an event moderator can properly conduct a video event, no more than five individuals should be included as observers.
 - Unless a docket type is closed or confidential, in any division, having more than five individuals observing an event may be good cause to live broadcast.
 - Closed or confidential proceedings, however, shall NOT be live broadcast under any circumstances.
- For all event types, interpreting services must be provided consistent with the Judiciary’s Language Access Plan. ([Directive #1-17](#)).
 - American Sign Language (ASL) video remote interpreting service should be coordinated with an ASL staff interpreter and based on participant’s technology and communication needs.
- Transcripts and / or audio from recorded court events in Superior or Municipal Courts will be made available as per Judiciary rules, policies and procedures. ([Information on Transcripts](#); Information on Requesting Video Records of Remote Court Proceedings, pursuant to [Directive #12-20](#)).
 - For all Superior Court events, other than those that need not be recorded per the guidance below, audio shall be captured using CourtSmart or court reporter, which continue to be the official court record.
 - For all Municipal Court events, audio shall be captured using the Municipal Court’s approved recording device, which continue to be the official court record.

➤ Criminal Division – see page 2	➤ Civil Division – see page 8
➤ Family Division – see page 4	➤ Municipal Division – see page 11

Criminal Courts – Events Guidance

Criminal events may be live broadcast where available and appropriate				
➤ Court staff and event moderators will determine which technology to use, taking into consideration the guidance below and the resources available to both the Judiciary and the participants.				
	Scopia *use where individual is incarcerated	Zoom	Teams	Phone
Cannot proceed remotely at this time				
• Jury trials	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
• Grand Jury	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Events that may be live broadcast				
• Centralized First Appearance/CJP	x	x		
• Motion for Pretrial Detention	x	x		
• Release Revocation Hearing	x	x		
• Motion to Reopen Detention Hearing	x	x		
• Speedy Trial Release Hearing	x	x		
• Extradition Hearing	x	x		
• Violation of Monitoring (VOM)	x	x		
• Violation of Probation (VOP)	x	x		
• Pretrial conference / Plea Cut Off	x	x		
• Bench trial	x	x		
• Sentencings	x	x		
• Guilty Plea – Accusation, Indictment	x	x		
• Testimonial motions	x	x		
• Non-testimonial motions	x	x		
• Post indictment arraignment	x	x		
• Disposition (Status) Conference, Initial, Final, Discretionary	x	x		
• Pre-indictment Disposition Conference	x	x		
• FERPO	x	x		
• PCR	x	x		
• Competency Hearing	x	x	x	
• Pretrial Intervention (PTI) Termination	x	x		
Events that will not be live broadcast				
• Drug Court session		x	x	
• Expungements		x		
• Municipal appeals		x		
• Setting of Bail within 12 hours			x	x
• Bail Motion/Review/Reduction of bail/Bench Warrant review *including municipal warrants/detainers			x	x

Criminal events may be live broadcast where available and appropriate

- Court staff and event moderators will determine which technology to use, taking into consideration the guidance below and the resources available to both the Judiciary and the participants.

	Scopia *use where individual is incarcerated	Zoom	Teams	Phone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TERPO as processed by police and heard by municipal court judge 				x
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate de novo review of a denial of a TERPO 			x	x
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gun permit appeals 		x	x	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISP Hearings 	x	x		x
<u>Closed proceedings</u>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Krol Hearings (murder is open unless good cause to close/all others closed) 	x	x	x	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexually Violent Predator (SVP) Hearing – currently heard at Avenel 		x	x	x
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Megan’s Law 	x	x	x	

Family Courts – Events Guidance

Family Division events shall not be live broadcast			
<p>➤ Court staff and event moderators will determine which technology to use, taking into consideration the guidance below and the resources available to both the Judiciary and the participants.</p>			
	Zoom	Teams	Phone
FM Docket events			
• Bench Trials	x	x	
• Orders to show cause		x	x
• Return on orders to show cause	x	x	
• Motions	x	x	x
• Child support hearings - Administrative Specialist IV		x	x
• Default hearings	x	x	x
• Uncontested divorces	x	x	x
* events that need not be recorded			
• Parent education program - Probation Officer or Administrative Specialist IV		x	x
• Case management conferences		x	x
• Mediations with Administrative Specialist IV		x	x
• FM early settlement programs as conducted by panelist with assistance from court staff if needed		x	x
• Economic mediation as scheduled and conducted by outside mediators		x	x
• Supervised visitation		x	x
FD Docket events			
• Orders to show cause		x	x
• Return on orders to show cause	x	x	
• Bench Trials	x	x	
• Motions	x	x	x
• Child support hearings - Administrative Specialist IV		x	x
• Custody/parenting time hearings	x	x	
• Name change hearing - <u>uncontested</u>		x	x
• Name change hearing - <u>contested</u>	x	x	
* events that need not be recorded			
• Supervised visitation		x	x
• Case management conferences		x	x
• FD consent conferencing - Probation Officer / Law Clerk		x	x
• Parent education program - Probation Officer or Administrative Specialist IV		x	x

Family Division events shall not be live broadcast

- Court staff and event moderators will determine which technology to use, taking into consideration the guidance below and the resources available to both the Judiciary and the participants.

	Zoom	Teams	Phone
FV Docket events – <u>confidential</u> proceedings			
• TRO as processed by police and heard by municipal court judge			X
• FV de novo hearings		X	X
• TRO Defendant appeals	X	X	X
• FROs	X	X	
• FV SASPA Temporary Protection Order	X	X	X
• FV SASPA Final Protection Order	X	X	
• Orders to show cause	X	X	X
• Return on orders to show cause	X	X	
• Motions	X	X	X
• Dismissals	X	X	
* events that need not be recorded			
• Case management conferences		X	X
• Supervised visitation		X	X
FO Docket events – <u>confidential</u> proceedings			
• Orders to show cause		X	X
• Return on orders to show cause	X	X	
• FO trials /contempt hearings	X	X	
• Motions	X	X	X
• Case management conferences		X	X
• FO weapons forfeiture	X	X	X
• Violations of probation (VOP)	X	X	
• Violations of monitoring (VOM)	X	X	
FN Docket events – <u>confidential</u> proceedings			
• Orders to show cause		X	X
• Return on orders to show cause	X	X	
• Fact findings	X	X	
• Motions		X	X
• Permanency hearings	X	X	X
• FN compliance reviews	X	X	X
• Case management conferences		X	X
* events that need not be recorded			
• Mediations - Administrative Specialist IV		X	X

Family Division events shall not be live broadcast

- Court staff and event moderators will determine which technology to use, taking into consideration the guidance below and the resources available to both the Judiciary and the participants.

	Zoom	Teams	Phone
FG Docket events – <u>confidential</u> proceedings			
• Orders to show cause		x	x
• Return on order to show cause	x	x	
• Bench Trials	x	x	
• Motions		x	x
• Permanency hearings	x	x	x
• Case management conferences		x	x
* events that need not be recorded			
• Mediations- Administrative Specialist IV		x	x
FL Docket events – <u>confidential</u> proceedings			
• Orders to show cause		x	x
• Return on orders to show cause	x	x	
• KLG Hearings	x	x	
• Motions	x	x	x
• Permanency hearings	x	x	x
• Case management conferences		x	x
* events that need not be recorded			
• Mediations- Administrative Specialist IV		x	x
FC Docket events – <u>confidential</u> proceedings			
• Orders to show cause		x	x
• Return on orders to show cause	x	x	
• Motions		x	x
• Permanency hearings for <u>voluntary</u> placements as conducted by a judge or volunteers		x	x
• Permanency hearings for <u>involuntary</u> placements as conducted by a judge	x	x	x
• 60 Day review as conducted by volunteers or a judge		x	x
• Case management conferences		x	x
* events that need not be recorded			
• Mediations- Administrative Specialist IV (NOT recorded)		x	x
FJ Docket events – <u>confidential</u> proceedings			
• Orders to show cause		x	x
• Return on orders to show cause	x	x	
• Bench Trials	x	x	
• Juvenile Referee Hearings	x	x	

Family Division events shall not be live broadcast

- Court staff and event moderators will determine which technology to use, taking into consideration the guidance below and the resources available to both the Judiciary and the participants.

	Zoom	Teams	Phone
• FJ detention hearings and reviews		X	X
• Motions	X	X	X
* events that need not be recorded			
• Case management conferences		X	X
• Juvenile Conference Committees—Volunteers (CURRENTLY SUSPENDED)	N/A	N/A	N/A
• FJ Intake Service Conferences - Probation Officers			X
FF Docket events – <u>confidential</u> proceedings			
• Orders to show cause		X	X
• Return on orders to show cause	X	X	
• Motions	X	X	X
• FF out-of-home shelter hearings	X	X	X
* events that need not be recorded			
• Case management conferences		X	X
FA Docket events – <u>confidential</u> proceedings			
• Orders to show cause		X	X
• Return on orders to show cause	X		
• Uncontested adoptions	X	X	
• Bench Trials	X	X	
• Motions	X	X	X
* events that need not be recorded			
• Case management conferences		X	X
• Mediations- Administrative Specialist IV		X	X

Civil Courts – Events Guidance

Civil Division events will not be live broadcast			
➤ Court staff and event moderators will determine which technology to use, taking into consideration the guidance below and the resources available to both the Judiciary and the participants.			
	Zoom	Teams	Phone
Cannot Proceed Remotely at this time			
• Jury trials	N/A	N/A	N/A
Law Docket events			
• Bench trials	x	x	
• Proof hearings	x	x	
• Order to Show Cause	x	x	x
• Motions	x	x	x
• Hearings	x		x
• Adult name changes	x	x	x
• Summary actions	x		x
• Friendlies	x	x	x
* events that need not be recorded			
• Case management, settlement, and other conferences		x	x
• Arbitration hearings as conducted by arbitrator	x	x	x
• Mediation / conferences with Administrative Specialist IV		x	x
Chancery Docket events			
• Bench trials	x	x	
• Proof hearings	x	x	
• Special medical guardianships	x		x
• Order to Show Cause/Temporary Restraining Order applications	x	x	x
• Motions	x	x	x
* events that need not be recorded			
• Case management, settlement, and other conferences		x	x
Probate Docket events			
• Bench trials	x		
• Contested Guardianship Hearings	x		
• Order to Show Cause	x	x	x
• Motions	x	x	x
• Uncontested Guardianship hearings	x	x	x
* events that need not be recorded			
• Case management, settlement, and other conferences		x	x

Civil Division events will not be live broadcast

- Court staff and event moderators will determine which technology to use, taking into consideration the guidance below and the resources available to both the Judiciary and the participants.

	Zoom	Teams	Phone
Foreclosure Docket events			
• Bench trials	x	x	
• Stay of Sheriff's sales applications	x	x	x
• Stays of eviction	x	x	x
• Motions	x	x	x
* events that are not recorded			
• Case management, settlement, and other conferences		x	x
• Foreclosure mediation as conducted by mediator		x	x
Landlord Tenant Docket events			
• Bench trials (CURRENTLY SUSPENDED)	x		
• Order to show cause/contested matters: post-judgment requests including stays of eviction	x	x	x
• Motions	x	x	x
• Judicial approval of settlements	x	x	x
* events that need not be recorded			
• Mediation sessions with court staff or other mediator		x	x
Special Civil DC Docket events			
• Bench trials (CURRENTLY SUSPENDED)	x		
• Orders to show cause: illegal lockouts, ejections	x		x
• Hearings on contested writ or wage exemption claims	x		x
• Objections to certificate of satisfaction requests	x	x	x
• Friendlies	x	x	x
• Motions	x	x	x
* events that need not be recorded			
• Mediation sessions with court staff or other mediator		x	x
Small Claims Docket events			
• Bench trials (CURRENTLY SUSPENDED)	x		
• Hearings on contested writ or wage exemption claims	x		x
• Objections to certificate of satisfaction requests	x	x	x
• Motions	x	x	x
* events that need not be recorded			
• Mediation sessions with court staff or other mediator		x	x

Civil Division events will not be live broadcast

- Court staff and event moderators will determine which technology to use, taking into consideration the guidance below and the resources available to both the Judiciary and the participants.

	Zoom	Teams	Phone
Civil Commitment Docket events – confidential Proceedings			
• Involuntary Commitment hearings		x	x
• Involuntary Outpatient Commitment hearings		x	x

Municipal Courts – Events Guidance

Municipal events will not be live broadcast

- Court staff and event moderators will determine which technology to use, taking into consideration the guidance below and the resources available to both the Judiciary and the participants.
 - In addition to video or phone options below, Municipal Courts shall continue to capture audio using their approved sound recording device
 - Zoom or Teams are encouraged and supported by the Judiciary. Municipal Courts may only utilize other video options with approval of the Assignment Judge and consistent with Judiciary information security requirements.

Municipal events include DP/PDP cases, Traffic, DWI, Parking, Local ordinances, penalty enforcement and other				
	Zoom	Teams	Other	Phone
• First Appearance	x	x	x	
• Violation of Monitoring (VOM)	x	x	x	
• Violation of Probation (VOP)	x	x	x	
• Status conference	x	x	x	x
• Contempt hearings	x	x	x	
• Bench trial	x	x	x	
• Sentencing	x	x	x	
• Guilty Plea	x	x	x	
• Post-adjudication hearings	x	x	x	
• Non-compliance hearings	x	x	x	
• Testimonial motions	x	x	x	
• Non-testimonial motions	x	x	x	
• Dismissals	x	x	x	