

VERMONT SUPERIOR COURT

Orleans Unit
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Newport, VT 05855
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www.vermontjudiciary.org



In Re: Domestic and Criminal Matters pending before the Orleans Court

UPDATED NOTICE AND ORDER RE: IN PERSON AND WEBEX HEARINGS

Effective September 6, 2022, the Orleans County Court is requiring that all attorneys and litigants appear in person for evidentiary hearings in domestic cases (divorce/separation/parentage) and criminal cases (including all evidentiary hearings in the domestic dockets and arraignments, motion hearings, changes of plea, sentencing hearings, and violations of probation in the criminal docket.) The court will continue to utilize the WebEx platform so victims, the press, and the general public can observe hearings. WebEx participation for litigants and attorneys will be limited in these two dockets for status conferences, calendar calls, pretrial hearings, and other non-evidentiary hearings. Any parties or attorneys who wish to appear by WebEx at evidentiary hearings will need to file a written request articulating the basis for appearing by WebEx. (See A.O. 38 and V.R.C.P. Rule 43.1) Defendants who are lodged and scheduled for 1:00 arraignments will not be transported to court and will appear remotely.

As counsel and litigants are aware, presentation of evidence by WebEx is cumbersome and often difficult to accomplish and creates challenges for establishing a good record. Both courtrooms in the criminal courthouse have increased capacity for hearings.

Counsel who appear by WebEx for non-evidentiary hearings or who are granted permission to appear by WebEx in evidentiary hearings shall participate with **both** video and audio on. Parties and witnesses who appear by WebEx will be expected to participate with both video and audio on, as well.

So ordered.

Electronically signed 9/6/2022 11:00:12 AM pursuant to V.R.E.F. Rule 9(d).

Lisa A. Warren

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Superior Court Judge