

STANDING ORDER – CALEDONIA PROBATE DIVISION

Participation in probate proceedings (including estates, guardianships, adoptions, name changes, etc.) is governed by the Vermont Rules of Probate Procedure as amended. Effective October 2, 2023, V.R.P.P. Rule 43.1(a)(1) provides: “All proceedings will be scheduled for remote participation by parties, counsel, witnesses, and other necessary participants unless otherwise ordered pursuant to this rule.”

This Standing Order provides an alternative. **This Court’s current practice chooses a hybrid approach. The Court remains set up for remote hearings and notifies participants of that option in its hearing notices. At the same time, the Court is open for in-person hearings.** Screens and speakers are set up in the courtroom to broadcast those participants who appear remotely. The onset of amended Rule 43.1(a)(1) on October 2, 2023 shall not change this Court’s current hybrid scheduling practices unless or until a replacement Standing Order is issued by this Court, or in the event a different, future Rule nullifies this Order.

That being said, this Court reserves the right to require in-person-only hearings at its courthouse in St. Johnsbury, Vermont, *without* the remote option, at the Court’s discretion. Likewise the Court will consider requests for an in-person-only hearing by any party when circumstances warrant. In-person-only hearings will usually be when evidence or testimony is required, such as in evidentiary hearings, or when a person is ordered to appear, or to render (deliver) something. When a hearing or other matter is required to be in-person-only, it shall be stated in the hearing’s Notice. In hearings noticed to be in-person-only, if a participant has a compelling need to appear remotely, they must request and receive the Court’s permission to appear remotely beforehand.

This Standing Order shall become effective on August 31, 2023.

Electronically signed 8/2/2023 at 5:02 PM pursuant to V.R.E.F. 9(d)



Annette Lorraine, Judge, Vermont Superior Court
Caledonia Unit, Probate Division