

VERMONT SUPREME COURT
SPECIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REMOTE HEARINGS

MEETING AGENDA FOR JULY 29, 2021

The Advisory Committee on Remote Hearings will meet virtually at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday July 29, 2021 to consider the following agenda:

- I. Welcome, Brief Introductions, and Committee Overview
 1. Housekeeping and logistics
 2. Committee scope and focus
 3. Member role and “feedback loops”
 4. Reporting and referral protocols
 5. Final report
- II. Remote Hearings in Context
 1. [Administrative Order No. 49](#) – Supreme Court Declaration of Judicial Emergency and Changes to Court Procedures
 2. Technology issues
 3. Human resource/staffing issues
 4. Communications issues
 5. Public access issues
 6. Remote hearing volume
- III. Review and Discussion of Committee Charge and Designation
 1. Concerning recommendations relating to hearing types to routinely schedule for remote proceedings and parameters for scheduling proceedings for remote participation (direct to Chief Superior Judge and Court Administrator)
 2. Concerning the identification or operational and policy issues relating to the conduct of remote hearings and recommendations regarding same (direct to Court Administrator, Chief Superior Judge, or committee with jurisdiction).
Examples include:
 - a. Guidelines for disclosure and management of exhibits in remote evidentiary hearings (in consultation with the Standard Practices Committee);
 - b. Format and content for effective communications to lawyers and self-represented litigants regarding remote proceedings, including court notices and online information;
 - c. Strategies to improve access to remote hearings for litigants who lack the necessary technology or expertise in using the kind of technology used by the Judiciary for these purposes;

- d. Methods to ensure public access to court proceedings in the context of remote hearings; and
 - e. Procedures for the conduct of remote hearings in which some participants are physically located in the courtroom and some are participating remotely.
3. Concerning the proposal of amendments to court rules relating to remote participation in court proceedings and regarding any statutory revisions that may be necessary to accommodate increased reliance on remote proceedings (direct to Supreme Court)
4. Concerning recommendations relating to the implementation of uniform procedures and standards of operations for all aspects of conducting remote hearings (direct to Court Administrator and Chief Superior Judge)
5. Concerning providing advice to the Research and Information Services Division regarding infrastructure or configuration of tools relating to remote hearings

IV. Action Items

V. Next Steps

1. Subcommittees
2. Stakeholder invitations
3. Virtual “field trip”
4. Meeting schedule and next meeting date

VI. Adjourn