

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2021-06**

**RE: REMOTE HEARINGS**

On April 2, 2021 the Rhode Island Supreme Court approved an amendment to the Superior Court Rules of Civil Procedure pursuant to G.L. 1956 (2012 Reenactment) § 8-6-2.

Super.R.Civ.P.7 was amended as follows:

Any hearing required or permitted under these rules may be conducted in whole or in part by remote means on the Court's own initiative, or upon request by a party and at the Court's discretion. A Request for a Remote Hearing may be made:

- (i) By the moving party at the time of filing the motion; and
- (ii) By any non-moving parties within five (5) days of service of the motion.

A *Remote Hearing Request* form (a/k/a *Covid-19 Motion/Conference Request*) shall be submitted and accompanied by a short, concise statement of the grounds on which such request is based, except that no applicant shall be required to reveal health care information.

In accordance with this amendment and in accordance with *Supreme Court Executive Order 2021-04 Section 4 - Remote Hearings*, the Superior Court adopts the following Procedures and Protocols:

1. All remote proceeding participants must utilize an application that has both audio and video capability and is authorized by the Court (currently WebEx).
2. Participants in remote proceedings shall be appropriately attired. For conferences and informal matters, business casual is acceptable, while on the record proceedings require business attire.
3. If a remote proceeding is scheduled on the Court's own initiative, counsel shall be afforded an opportunity to file an objection and be heard by the Court. The objection shall state the specific grounds for objecting to the remote proceeding.
4. A stenographic record shall be made of all on-the-record proceedings.

5. The case or hearing types that may be conducted remotely are as follows:

Administrative Appeals  
Bench Trials  
Business Calendars  
Civil Motion Calendars (dispositive and non-dispositive motions)  
Control Calendars  
Formal and Special Cause Calendars  
Mediations  
Motions to Assign  
Motions to Confirm/Motions to Vacate (Arbitration)  
Non-Jury Hearings  
Pleas  
Pre-Trial Conferences  
Pre-Trial Motions  
Provisional and Final Remedies and Special Proceedings  
Push Calendars  
Sentencings  
Temporary Restraining Orders with Attorney Representation  
Trial Calendar Calls

6. Pro se litigants without access to WebEx technology will be provided access to in-courtroom computer equipment with audio and video capability to participate in remote hearings with other parties who are participating by remote means.

7. To the extent that the on the record proceeding does not take place in-person where members of the public would be permitted access and where it is not prohibited by statute or rule, the audio of the on the record hearing shall be broadcast using a livestream.

**BY ORDER OF:**

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
**ALICE BRIDGET GIBNEY**  
**PRESIDING JUSTICE**

**DATED:** July 30, 2021