



COUNTY OF PUEBLO, STATE OF COLORADO, TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

CHIEF JUDGE ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

24-05

WEBEX VIRTUAL COURTROOM PROCEDURES FOR CRIMINAL CASES

- I. **Authority.** Pursuant to the authority granted to chief judges of the judicial districts of the State of Colorado by Chief Justice Directives (“CJD”) 95-01 and 23-03, the undersigned enters the following Chief Judge Administrative Order 24-05, Webex Virtual Courtroom Procedures for Criminal Cases.

- II. **Background.** As recognized by CJD 23-03, the implementation of virtual proceedings has resulted in a number of benefits to parties, attorneys, and other court participants. However, some challenges in the use of virtual proceedings have become apparent; for example, there is a loss of courtroom decorum and solemnity. As well, the operation of the virtual appearance platform used by the Judicial Department, Webex, requires ongoing attention from both the judge and staff throughout proceedings.


CJD 23-03 aims to strike a balance between providing increased access to the courts through the use of virtual proceedings while recognizing the inherent authority and broad discretion that judges have in administering each of their own courtrooms. The CJD creates a baseline from which each judicial officer may determine on a case-by-case basis when good cause exists to depart from the baselines of virtual proceedings. The CJD does not limit a judicial officer’s discretion to implement reasonable tools within the virtual courtroom to ensure appropriate decorum and ensure an appropriate experience for participants. Further, CJD 23-03 provides that Chief Judges may adopt local policies to further delineate the continued use of virtual proceedings in their jurisdictions.

Over the last month, the Judicial Department, the 10th Judicial District, parties, participants and the public have experienced what appears to be a coordinated effort to disrupt many virtual courtrooms with profane, explicit and obscene conduct. The Judicial Department is continuing to develop tools to mitigate this disruption. However, in the interim, the 10th Judicial District Criminal Bench, sitting en banc, has identified the following procedures to be implemented in each criminal division.

III. Order. The following procedures shall apply to all Webex virtual courtroom criminal proceedings within the 10th Judicial District, including initial advisement and bond setting hearings:

- A. All Webex virtual proceedings will be locked.
- B. Parties who wish to join shall enter their full name if logging on through a computer or web-based application. If the Court does not see the name displayed on the docket, that person will not be permitted to join the virtual courtroom.
- C. If a victim who has a right to be present pursuant to the Victim Rights Act would like to join, they are required to provide their full name and the case number, such that the Court can reference the specific case prior to admission to the virtual courtroom.
- D. Spectators may view live streaming coverage of criminal court proceedings and will not be permitted to join the virtual courtroom. The live stream link is: <https://live.coloradojudicial.gov>.
- E. Defense attorneys shall inform their clients who wish to appear via the virtual courtroom of this Order. Parties who do not attend as ordered above will be considered failing to appear, and warrants will issue based upon the non-appearance.
- F. The District Attorney shall inform victims who wish to appear via the virtual courtroom of this Order.
- G. Users of the Webex virtual courtroom via phone-connection-only may continue, as they do not have the ability to cause visually inappropriate interruptions.
- H. Nothing in this Order shall limit a judicial officer's discretion to modify or deviate from the above procedures.

SO ORDERED, this 16th day of August 2024.



Gregory J. Styduhar, Chief Judge