IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF KANSAS

FILED

JUN 04 2020

DOUGLAS T. SHIMA
CLERK OF APPELLATE COURTS

Administrative Order

2020-CM-059

Re: Ad Hoc Virtual Court Proceedings Committee

Pursuant to authority under Article 3, Section 1 of the Kansas Constitution, the Supreme Court hereby creates the Ad Hoc Virtual Court Proceedings Committee.

Administrative order 2020-PR-016, issued on March 18, 2020, restricted Kansas courts' functions and methods of operation in order to secure the health and safety of court users, staff, and judicial officers. Court proceedings were restricted to emergency operations and courts were directed that, to the extent feasible, emergency operations be conducted by two-way electronic audio-visual communication. Through subsequent administrative orders[1], restrictions on court operations have eased. While resuming additional functions, courts are encouraged to use telework to the extent possible to enable full productivity while operating with fewer staff in the courthouse or court office, and the authorization to conduct court operations via two-way electronic audio-visual communication continues.[2] Not only are audio-visual communications authorized, 2020-PR-054 provides that all hearings should be conducted remotely, if possible.

Recognizing that virtual court proceedings allow access to justice while protecting the health and safety of court users, staff, and judicial officers, this committee will examine issues, explore and evaluate possible solutions, and make recommendations for best practices regarding such proceedings. The duties of the committee are to examine the following:

1. Present ability to conduct court proceedings virtually;
2. Tools necessary to facilitate or expand virtual court proceedings;
3. Maximizing operational efficiencies by conducting court proceedings virtually;
4. Communication with court users about the use of and participation in virtual court proceedings;
5. Statutory or rule-based impediments to implementation of committee recommendations; and
6. Any other topic the group believes will benefit the courts in planning and implementing virtual court proceedings.

The following persons are hereby appointed to serve on the Ad Hoc Virtual Court Proceedings Committee:

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[1] Administrative Order 2020-PR-032, issued on April 3, 2020, allowed essential functions and any other function that could be performed without an in-person hearing. Administrative Order 2020-PR-048, issued on May 1, 2020, allows courts in counties not affected by a stay-at-home order or subject to a directive closing a county courthouse or judicial office to begin making plans to resume additional functions.

[2] Under 2020-PR-056, two-way telephonic or electronic audio-visual communication is authorized for any essential or nonessential court proceeding.

Hon. Nick St. Peter, Chair	Chief Judge	19th Judicial District
Hon. Kevin Berens	Chief Judge	15th Judicial District
Hon. Tyler Roush	District Judge	18th Judicial District
Hon. John Weingart	District Judge	22nd Judicial District
Hon. Shannon Rush	District Magistrate Judge	4th Judicial District
Hon. Karen Torline	Municipal Judge	Shawnee, Kansas
Ellen House	District Court Administrator	18th Judicial District
Amanda Truan	District Court Administrator	23rd Judicial District
Stephanie Gerken	Clerk of the District Court	6th Judicial District
Douglas Hamilton	Clerk of the District Court	7th Judicial District
Jennifer Leach	Clerk of the District Court	10th Judicial District
Katherine Oliver	Clerk of the District Court	21st Judicial District
Kim Schwarz	Chief Clerk	15th Judicial District
Jennifer Olson	Court Reporter	3rd Judicial District
Marilyn Targos	Administrative Assistant	30th Judicial District

The group will be supported by Amber Smith, Deputy Judicial Administrator, and Sarah Hoskinson, Deputy Special Counsel to the Chief Justice, and other office of judicial administration personnel as needed.

Dated this 4th day of June 2020. This order is effective upon filing.

Marla Luckert

MARLA LUCKERT
Chief Justice