



Pursuant to Rule 43.1 of the Vermont Rules of Civil Procedure, the court hereby issues this standing order for Civil Division proceedings in the Caledonia, Essex, Lamoille, and Orleans Units. *See* V.R.C.P. 43.1(c)(1)(A) and (d)(1)(A).

STANDING ORDER REGARDING REMOTE HEARINGS

1. Any party or attorney may appear in person at any hearing without requesting permission to do so, unless the Notice of Hearing explicitly notes: “Remote Only.”
2. An evidentiary hearing is a hearing in which live oral testimony will be taken. All other hearings are non-evidentiary.
3. Parties, attorneys, and witnesses must appear in person at any evidentiary hearing that is scheduled to last longer than 1.5 hours, unless the Court’s Notice of Hearing expressly indicates otherwise.
4. Parties, attorneys, and witnesses must appear in person at jury draws and jury trials.
5. All remaining hearings will be scheduled for “hybrid” participation by the Presiding Judge, parties, attorneys, and witnesses. In other words, the participants may attend in person or through remote means.
6. Any party, attorney, or witness who is participating in a hearing remotely must do so: (i) through a secure internet connection; (ii) with both a video and an audio feed; and (iii) from a location that is quiet, devoid of distractions, and ensures adequate privacy. If a party, attorney, or witness intends to participate remotely and has a poor internet connection, it is that person’s responsibility to take appropriate steps to ensure that their connection on the date of the hearing is reliable. Participation by a party, attorney, or witness who lacks a two-way visual connection to the hearing will be at the discretion of the Court.

7. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Order, the Court may direct any party, attorney, or witness to appear in person at any particular hearing by express direction.
8. This Order and each specific Notice of Hearing is deemed to provide the required notice to litigants under Vt. R. Civ. P. 43.1(c)(3) and (4) as to the mode of the hearing.
9. Any motion for an exception from this Order should be filed promptly upon receipt of a Notice of Hearing. In considering such a motion, the court will be guided by the factors set forth in Vermont Rule of Civil Procedure 43.1(h).