



STANDING ORDER FOR CHITTENDEN COUNTY DOMESTIC AND JUVENILE CASES

Issued: September 2023

Paragraph 5 of Administrative Order 49 concerning remote hearings was deleted effective September 6, 2022. The Reporter's Notes regarding the change provided that remote participation in most family court proceedings will be governed by existing Rule 43.1 of the Vermont Rules of Civil Procedure, until new rules for remote proceedings are issued.

Rule 43.1 provides that by order served on all parties, a court may require remote participation, and/or that a judge may preside from a remote location. V.R.C.P. 43.1(c)(3) & (4). Until further notice, all Notices of Hearing issued in this Division shall include instructions for participating in the hearing that shall specify whether the hearing is in-person, remote by Webex, or a hybrid of the two. Such Notice shall constitute the required notice pursuant to Rule 43.1.

Any person appearing remotely will do so with their audio on, and with video capability, if available, or unless excused by the Court. Any individual party or attorney who wishes to appear in person may appear in person for a remote hearing without requesting permission to do so.

If a person appears remotely, it is his or her responsibility to join the hearing and appear on time; it is not the Court's responsibility to connect people to the hearing. Counsel shall be responsible for ensuring their clients have the necessary login information to join the hearing.

For in-person hearings, a motion to appear remotely shall be filed no later than 14 days in advance of the hearing, unless good cause is shown to allow a motion on shorter notice.

Absent a specific order from the Court in any particular case, the following expectations for appearance remotely or in-person shall apply:

DOMESTIC/FAMILY CASES

- A. The parties and counsel are required to appear in person for **all evidentiary hearings and for pretrial conferences**, unless otherwise permitted upon motion.
- B. Parties and counsel may appear remotely for status conferences.

RELIEF FROM ABUSE CASES

- A. Parties may appear remotely or in person. If appearing remotely, they shall ensure that they have audio and video capability.

CHINS CASES

- A. The parties and counsel are required to appear in person for **all evidentiary hearings that are scheduled for a half day or more.**
- B. All other hearings may be remote by Webex or in person.
- C. GALs may appear remotely by Webex for any hearing, regardless of whether the juvenile appears in person.

DELINQUENCY AND YOUTHFUL OFFENDER CASES

- A. Unless otherwise permitted upon motion, counsel and parties are required to appear in person for all Preliminary Hearings, Merits Hearings, Admissions, Youthful Offender Consideration Hearings and Disposition Hearings.
- B. **Counsel and parties may appear remotely for pretrial hearings and status conferences so long as they do not intend to resolve merits.**
- C. GALs may appear remotely by Webex for any hearing, regardless of whether the juvenile appears in person.