

## **Skagit County Superior Court Remote Hearing Rules**

Remote appearances are permitted for most types of hearings, and for some trials. The rules for conduct on the remote platform are quite similar to those appearing in court.

Because technology is involved, some additional guidance is provided below. Failure to follow appropriate courtroom decorum may result in a warning and/or removal from the remote platform. With very few exceptions, all proceedings are available in person in the courthouse.

### **Before the Hearing:**

1. Connect to the Zoom line five minutes before your hearing is set to start.
2. Either use an appropriate virtual background or be situated in a location with an appropriate background. Avoid backgrounds/virtual backgrounds that are distracting. Also avoid backlighting, such as being in front of a window.
3. Try to be in a place that is quiet and without distractions.
4. Dress and act in a way that is appropriate for court proceedings. Do not eat, smoke, chew gum, or drink anything distracting or inappropriate for court. (Water, coffee cups, and mugs are acceptable as long as they do not contain alcoholic beverages.)
5. Identify yourself in Zoom with your actual name if you are a participant in the hearing or trial. You may identify yourself as an “Observer” and not enable your video if you are not a participant in the case and choose not to identify yourself.

### **During the Hearing:**

1. Mute your phone or computer while you wait for your case to be called.
2. Do not announce yourself when you appear. Wait to be called by the judge during roll call or when your case is called to be heard.
3. Only one person may speak at a time to ensure that everyone can be heard.
4. Speak clearly and at a slightly slower pace than you would normally speak. Consider the use of a headset or earbuds if noise or hearing is a concern.
5. Do not move unnecessarily around the space with the camera on.
7. The use of the chat function is disabled.
8. Do not interrupt the proceedings. If you are waiting for your case to be called or are unsure if you are in the right space, wait for a case to end before inquiring if you are on the correct Zoom line.
9. Breakout rooms are available for confidential conversations between attorneys and their clients. Request a breakout room if you need to have this sort of discussion.