

Remote Appearance Etiquette

Remember that when you appear remotely, it is still considered a court appearance. You will be expected to observe the normal rules of court. Additional etiquette that is required is listed below:

Connecting

You should connect to court at least five minutes before the hearing is scheduled to begin.

As with in-person hearings, you must wait to identify yourself if you enter late while court is already in session. If you enter late, you should wait until you are requested to identify yourself. You may not interrupt other cases for purposes of announcing yourself.

Backgrounds and Location

You should choose a location to appear over video that is appropriate and does not include any people or personal items in the background that you would not want to be shown in court.

The use of virtual backgrounds is allowed to protect your privacy. You must choose a virtual background that is appropriate and not distracting.

Try to be in a place that is quiet and without distractions.

Attire and Behavior

Please 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).

Addressing the Court

Follow direction from the judge about when it is your turn to speak. Please speak clearly, and at a slightly slower pace than you would normally speak. Consider the use of a headset or earbuds if background noise or hearing is a concern.

Do not interrupt or talk over a person who has been called upon by the judge. Your video or phone should be on mute unless your case is being heard.

Additional instructions on etiquette for remote hearings and technical information on connecting to Zoom are available at the Court's website:

<http://SkagitCounty.net/Departments/SuperiorCourt>