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Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 12:24 AM
To: Comments Mailbox
Subject: [External]Comments for Remote Court Proceedings

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Dear NJ Administrative Office of the Courts:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit a few brief comments to you, regarding remote proceedings in the New Jersey courts.

Login

Zoom court proceedings have proven to be a great way to attend court, in any municipality without the necessity for travel. Some courts use the same zoom login identification code; others use a different code and password for every court session. My experience is that it's easier when the same login code and or password is used every time. It avoids confusion when accessing a particular court. Concerns about "zoom hacking" have not manifested in the courts I have been working. If necessary, the login information could be changed periodically; perhaps every quarter, if "zoom hacking" is a major concern for a particular court.

Addressing Participants

I've observed that courts addressing defendants and or court participants as "Mr.," "Ms.," or "Mrs.," is perceived by participants as being civil and respectful, as opposed to calling someone "Joe" or "John" or "Jose." Respectful demeanor is reflected in the communication between zoom participants, the court, prosecutors, public defenders and court staff.

Failure to Appear (FTA) and Bench Warrants

Defendants are much more likely to appear on zoom because it's easier than finding transportation to court. Defendants can now appear in court from all over the world and avoid bench warrants and failure to appear notations.

Technology

There is still difficulty among many zoom participants for lack of technical equipment to appear on zoom. Short timed and dedicated court sessions (2 hours) is one method to ease the length of time on zoom and any inherent fatigue and frustrations built into the experience, due to having to remain on zoom for longer than 2 hours.

Your courtesy and cooperation in reviewing these brief comments is appreciated.

Sincerely,
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