

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA
DON BARBEE JR., CIRCUIT JUDGE

STANDING ORDER ON ZOOM TRIALS/EVIDENTIARY HEARINGS

If 2020 has taught us nothing else, video conference technology is here to stay long after the pandemic has passed. Zoom has proven to be an efficient tool in keeping dockets moving and allowing litigants their day in court. In an effort to maximize efficiency and provide clear direction/expectations, it is hereby **ORDERED AND ADJUDGED**

1. This standing order shall apply to all family law, probate, and non-jury civil matters heard by Circuit Judge Don Barbee Jr.
2. **USING ZOOM:** Attorneys, parties, and other participants will require access to a computer/laptop/tablet with a camera or a “smart phone.” Anyone participating in a zoom hearing shall ensure that they are in an environment that provides sufficient internet access or signal strength and is free of background noise. It is strongly encouraged that counsel and parties unfamiliar with the Zoom platform test their devices and practice using the technology prior to the hearing. In order to assist new Zoom users, the following training link are provided below:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/206618765-Zoom-Video-Tutorials>
<https://blog.texasbar.com/2020/03/articles/teleconferencing/zooming-into-a-new-era/>

3. **DECORUM:** Remember that a zoom hearing is an electronic version of a courtroom. There shall be no smoking, eating, or other distracting behaviors during the hearing. Proper attire is required just as if you were appearing in an actual courtroom.
4. **WITNESSES:** It is the responsibility of the attorney or pro-se party to ensure that a copy of the Zoom invitation has been forwarded to any witnesses intended to be called at the hearing. This includes court reporters.

5. **EVIDENCE:** Any documents, photographs or other evidence that counsel or a pro-se party intends to use at the hearing must be shared with the opposing party and the Court no later than 48 hours before the hearing. Evidence may be shared with the Court by email attachment to jshreiber@circuit5.org or some means of physical delivery (US Mail, hand delivery, etc). The electronic exhibits should be in a commonly recognized format such as JPEG or PDF. **The exhibits are to be named in such a manner as to make them easily located such as “P#1 – Photo” etc.** and shall be submitted as separate documents (do not submit one PDF containing multiple exhibits). Parties with a large number of exhibits should consider using “dropbox” or a zip file to transmit large amounts of evidence to the Court. Counsel and pro-se parties are directed to confer to maximize the use of stipulations. Pursuant to F.S. 90.202(6), the Court will take judicial notice of items already in the court file (pleadings, orders, financial affidavits, etc.) so those items need not be provided. Failure to follow these directives may result in the exclusion of your evidence
6. If you have any questions about this standing order, please contact Jamie Shreiber, Judicial Assistant, at jshreiber@circuit5.org or (352)540-6655.

DONE AND ORDERED this 8th day of January, 2021.



Don Barbee Jr.
Circuit Judge