

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR SUMTER COUNTY, FLORIDA
ERIN DALY, CIRCUIT JUDGE

STANDING ORDER ON ZOOM USE AT HEARINGS AND TRIALS

As much as this Court prefers in person appearance in the physical courtroom, it is clear that video conference technology is here to stay. 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 civil, guardianship matters and other matters heard by Circuit Judge Erin Daly.

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.

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 link in the Zoom order has been forwarded to any witnesses intended to be called at the hearing. This includes court reporters.

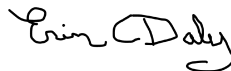
5. EVIDENCE: If a motion for zoom appearance is granted, any documents, photographs or evidence that a party intends to use at the hearing must be shared with the opposing party and the Court no later than 48 hours before the hearing. Evidence may be shared with the Court by email attachment to pbarto@circuit5.org 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 a thumb drive or zip files to transmit large amounts of evidence to the Court or agreeing to appear in person. 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. To facilitate Zoom use, confer with opposing counsel, submit an agreed or contested motion with proposed order to allow your witness to appear via zoom, and upload a proposed order granting your motion. The Court will provide and enter the zoom link into the proposed order.

7. If you have any questions about this standing order, please contact Paula Barto, Judicial Assistant, at pbarto@circuit5.org or (352)569-6960 or see court website - Erin Daly - State of Florida Fifth Judicial Circuit - <https://www.circuit5.org/courts-judges/sumter-county/judiciary/erin-daly/> - “zoom appearances”.

DONE AND ORDERED this 26th day of March, 2025.



Erin Daly, Circuit Judge