

Zoom Court Proceedings

Courtroom Protocol for Participants in Court Hearings Conducted by Zoom

Attire: All participants should be dressed appropriately for court

- Judges should be robed
- Attorneys should be in their courtroom attire
- Litigants and participants should dress modestly and respectfully in clean clothing in good repair
 - avoiding clothing that is offensive or makes a statement intended to influence the court

Distractions must be avoided

- All participants must act as if they are in an actual courtroom.
- Participants should avoid getting up and moving away from the camera during a hearing
- People who are not involved in the hearing and pets must not come into the camera view
- Participants must control background noise (which can easily be done by muting their microphone unless they are speaking).
- Participants must be aware of their visual backgrounds. There should be no offensive or distracting backgrounds visible and there must not be any messages conveyed to the court or other participants. Zoom has a feature for adding a virtual background if the actual background is not appropriate for the proceeding.

Behavior during a hearing should be that expected in a courtroom

- The judge will direct the hearing and ask for certain participants to speak in turn
- Participants must behave respectfully, avoiding facial or hand gestures that could be interpreted as agreeing or disagreeing with a speaker or conveying a message
- **In short, participants should remember that while they are not in a courtroom, they are in a “virtual” courtroom and must act appropriately**

Additional information.

- Please also refer to the Idaho Supreme Court’s web page for additional information: www.isc.idaho.gov.
- Under the Supreme Court banner, click on “Resources & Media” and scroll down to “Electronic Hearings (Zoom)” for additional information, instructions, links to videos that may be helpful, Tips for Successful Usage, and Frequently Asked Questions.