

**HONORABLE JAMES W. BOYD'S
REMOTE HEARING PROCEDURES AS OF JULY 6, 2021**

As we return to the courtroom, we believe it is important for attorneys to appear in person to interact with the court and their peers. This is important for many reasons, not the least of which is to foster the culture of civility among the bankruptcy bar that has existed in Western Michigan since the days of Judges Nims and Howard. At the same time, we recognize that the pandemic has affected individuals in many different ways and, for some, going back to the courtroom will not be as simple as "flipping a switch". We also recognize that video proceedings forced by the pandemic have improved efficiency and increased access to justice. For these reasons, we have developed the following flexible guidelines for returning to our courtroom.

Beginning on July 6, 2021, and unless otherwise specified in a court order, notice of hearing, or docket entry, all trials, evidentiary hearings, and other contested hearings will be conducted in person. For all other matters, the court expects all attorneys and parties to appear in person. However, Zoom appearances for matters scheduled for motion days and for pretrial conferences will be permitted for individuals who are (or have recently been) ill, those who are required to quarantine due to recent Covid-19 exposure, those who have other Covid-19 related concerns,¹ and those who have other valid reasons which make them unable to attend the hearing in person. Each individual is responsible for determining whether they meet these criteria; at this time, the court will not pre-approve remote appearances but will closely monitor how parties choose to appear. This policy is subject to change as public health circumstances continue to change or if abuses or other logistical difficulties arise, in which case the court may impose a more stringent "for cause" requirement. As a courtesy, please advise opposing counsel or parties if you are planning to appear remotely for a scheduled hearing.

Remote court appearances will continue to occur via Zoom videoconferencing. If you meet the above criteria for appearing remotely at a scheduled hearing, or if your remote appearance is otherwise permitted by a court order or notice, you may join the Zoom conference using the following log-in information:

Join ZoomGov Meeting:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/16141082837>

Meeting ID: 161 4108 2837

Passcode: 281319

Dial by your location:

+1 669 254 5252 US (San Jose)

+1 646 828 7666 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 161 4108 2837

Passcode: 281319

Prior to the hearing, each participant should review Judge Boyd's Guidelines for Participation in Video Hearings via Zoom, available at <https://www.miwb.uscourts.gov/content/judge-james-w-boyd> under the "Authorized Video Appearances" tab.

¹ Some **non-exclusive** Covid-19 related concerns that might justify appearing by Zoom are: (1) your employer does not allow you to appear in the courtroom, (2) you are encountering logistical difficulties, such as child-care issues, due to the pandemic, (3) you are attempting to minimize potential exposure to a loved one that might occur if you were to personally appear, (4) you are otherwise experiencing physical or emotional issues, including anxiety, that would affect your ability to personally appear, or (5) the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has designated the respective county of holding court (Kent, Ingham, or Grand Traverse) as having a "substantial" or "high" level of community transmission.