

**FILED**

MAR 10 2023

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT  
THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
BOND AND MADISON COUNTIES**

CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT #43  
THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
MADISON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

**Rule 15. REMOTE APPEARANCES**

In recognition that remote appearances may be preferred by the litigants in certain cases, case participants may appear remotely (by telephone, video conference, or other electronic means) pursuant to this rule. Except as otherwise set forth in this rule, a person's opportunity to participate remotely in civil, criminal, and juvenile matters is governed by Illinois Supreme Court Rule 45 and sections 106D-1 and 109-1(f) of the Code of Civil Procedure of 1963 (Civil Code) (725 ILCS 5/106D-1, 5/109-1(f) (West Supp. 2023)). A remote appearance in a court proceeding is equivalent to an in-person appearance and all case participants are required to observe proper decorum. No Recording of any kind is allowed.

**(A) Non-Evidentiary Proceedings.** Remote appearances for non-evidentiary proceedings may be permitted at the discretion of the Judge presiding over the case. Unless a Judge has otherwise provided for remote appearances, litigants must seek advanced approval in accordance with this rule.

**(B) Evidentiary Hearings in Civil, Criminal, and Juvenile Cases.** Evidentiary hearings shall be presumed to be in person unless the Judge presiding over the matter approves a remote appearance upon a finding of good cause. In that event, the court may grant permission at its discretion in accordance with this rule but must find sufficient protocols and appropriate equipment is in place to ensure the integrity of the hearing and that the case participants' due process rights are fully protected.

**(C) Request for Remote Appearance.** Unless a Judge presiding over a case or docket has already provided for remote appearances, all requests for remote appearance must be made to the circuit court at least seven days in advance of the proceeding or hearing. The court, at its discretion, may excuse an untimely request for good cause. The request must be in writing and state the reasons for the request. The requestor must also submit a proposed order and comply with all procedural requirements provided by the Civil Code, Supreme Court rules and local rules.

**(D) Conduct of Remote Hearings and Required Decorum.**

- 1) The presiding judge, or the judge's assistant, will host the hearing and control entry into the proceeding or hearing.
- 2) Case participants must be in a place free of audio/video distractions.
- 3) The Host is entitled to mute, suspend, or terminate the hearing at any time.
- 4) Case participants must be dressed appropriately for court and conduct themselves as if they are physically present in a courtroom.

- 5) Case participants must ensure that any video background used is appropriate for a judicial hearing.

(E) Zoom links and conference call phone numbers to specific judges' courtrooms can be found on the following websites:

Bond County:

[www.bondcountyiil.gov/circuit-clerk/](http://www.bondcountyiil.gov/circuit-clerk/)

Madison County:

<https://www.madisoncountyiil.gov/departments/circuit-clerk/court-schedule-for-zoom-hearings.php>

On this 10th day of March 2023, the Circuit Judges of the Third Judicial Circuit, State of Illinois, unanimously approved this rule.

/s/ Stephen A. Stobbs  
CHIEF JUDGE

/s/ Timothy Berkley  
CIRCUIT JUDGE

/s/ Amy Maher  
CIRCUIT JUDGE

/s/ Kyle Napp  
CIRCUIT JUDGE

/s/ Dennis R. Ruth  
CIRCUIT JUDGE

/s/ Amy Sholar  
CIRCUIT JUDGE

/s/ Sarah D. Smith  
CIRCUIT JUDGE

/s/ Christopher P. Threlkeld  
CIRCUIT JUDGE

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CIRCUIT JUDGE