

COURT APPEARANCE BY ZOOM (Video or Telephone)

Until the COVID-19 related governmental Orders and advisories have been lifted, we will not have any court hearings in person at Justice of the Peace, Pct 3. This is in accordance with the latest Orders and recommendations of the Texas Supreme Court, the Texas Court of Criminal of Appeals, and the Office of Court Administration. Pursuant to such Orders and recommendations, this Court will utilize the Zoom platform for hearings, when feasible under the circumstances. If you have extenuating circumstances contact the court at 409-882-5310 and you will be advised as to how you will need to appear in court.

How to Create Zoom Account

To appear by Zoom, you must have access to one of the following: a computer, a laptop, a tablet (such as an IPAD), or a smart phone. Your device must have a microphone, and it is best if it has a camera. It must have access to the internet. To attend a hearing by Zoom, go to <https://zoom.us>. If this is your first time to use Zoom on that device, you might be prompted to download the app from the APP Store – there is no charge for this app.

At the Zoom page, click “join.” (You may be asked “Open this page in “Zoom” and given the choice to Cancel or Open. Choose “Open”) Click “Join a Meeting” and at the “Join a Meeting” page, put in the **Meeting ID: 845-382-3076**. Click on “Join.” You can then select “Call using Internet Audio” [PREFERRED] or “Dial in.” In unusual cases, you will be notified by the Court of a different Meeting ID; in that event, use the ID given to you in the notice or letter instead of the ID listed above.

OTHER Ways to Appear through Zoom

Internet Browser:

<https://txcourts.zoom.us/j/8453823076>

Join using mobile phone or landline:

1-346-248-7799 Meeting ID: 845 382 3076

When prompted push the Zoom Meeting ID followed by #: 8453823076#

Zoom Protocol

When you join, you will be in the “Waiting room” and you will only be able to enter the virtual “courtroom” when the Judge brings you in. You cannot see or hear the proceedings from the waiting room. Like the Courtroom, only parties and litigants will be invited into the virtual courtroom (“inside the rail/bar”). The Judge and/or the Court Coordinator will be able

to see you are in the waiting room. Do not attempt to notify the court that you are in the waiting room.

If you elect to use video, which is recommended, you will be seen by the Judge and the other participants. You will be in a Courtroom, therefore please dress appropriately. Conduct yourself appropriately, using suitable language. Make sure your clients, if you're an attorney, and witnesses also understand this as well.

Zoom allows only one person to talk at a time; do not talk when another person is talking. Be mindful that any background noise will cause problems with a Zoom hearing. You should try to mute yourself until it is your turn to speak. Muting can be done on the device you are using.

If an attorney needs to talk to a client privately, I can place them in a private breakout room where they cannot be seen or heard by others. If a defendant and plaintiff would like to talk prior to the hearing let us know and we can place you in a breakout room. Unless directed otherwise, your client, if you're an attorney, can appear at your office and share a device with you; or they can appear by a separate device – in your office or from another location. The prerequisites for using Zoom and the login procedures are the same. Note that having two devices in close proximity may result in feedback problems. Witnesses will need to appear on their own device and will be placed in the waiting room until asked to testify.

If you have people who want to attend and see/hear the proceedings, they can do so on our YouTube Channel entitled Judge Joy Simonton, where the proceedings will be streamed live. If they enter through ZOOM, they will not be able to see or hear the proceedings. You can Google "Judge Joy Simonton YouTube Channel" and it should come up in the search results or use the link below. https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCU6W9vEeJuEy9Rwpyn_qcnQ?view_as=subscriber

You can also visit our Facebook page, Orange County Justice of the Peace, Pct. 3, <https://www.facebook.com/JoySimontonOCJP3/> and click on our YouTube link.

This is exactly like being in the Courtroom. You are absolutely prohibited from making any audio or video recordings. This prohibition is enforceable by contempt of Court, carrying a possible punishment of fines and/or incarceration in jail.

*****YOUR SCREEN NAME NEED TO BE YOUR REAL NAME OR YOU WILL NOT BE RECOGNIZED IN THE WAITING ROOM OR ADMITTED INTO THE COURTROOM.