

THORNTON MUNICIPAL COURT – POLICY AND ORDER OF THE  
PRESIDING JUDGE 2023-4

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Live Streaming Coverage of Proceedings and Virtual Proceedings Policy

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This Order is created subsequent to House Bill 23-1182, Chief Justice Directive 23-02 LIVE STREAMING COVERAGE OF CRIMINAL COURT PROCEEDINGS IN THE TRIAL COURTS, and Chief Justice Directive 23-03 VIRTUAL PROCEEDINGS POLICY.

Since COVID-19, this Court has provided increased access to our Court through the use of virtual proceedings. Currently, this Court handles a virtual docket every Monday mainly for traffic matters, and individuals facing a hardship if they were to appear in-person.

The Thornton Municipal Court does not have sufficient staff to monitor a constant live stream coverage of its criminal proceedings, nor the technological capacity and staffing to hold hearings pursuant to the presumptive hearing types set forth in Section IV of Chief Justice Directive 23-03 and would find these obligations to be an operational and financial hardship.

In an effort to continue to promote public access and transparency, any individual requesting to observe a criminal proceeding remotely or appear virtually may complete a Request to Observe Criminal Proceeding Remotely or Appear Virtually form for the judicial officer to consider pursuant to the factors outlined in Chief Justice Directives 23-02(IV)(B) and 23-03(IV).

Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, all parties and counsel are required to appear in person for all hearings unless they request, and are granted, a remote appearance. Parties must submit a written or oral request on the record at least two weeks in advance of the hearing. Requests can be submitted in person or online at [www.thorntonco.gov](http://www.thorntonco.gov) – municipal court – court documents.

Parties appearing for the Court's in-custody docket and matters already scheduled for a virtual hearing are preauthorized to appear virtually.

Effective date: August 1, 2023



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Tiffany Sorice  
Presiding Municipal Judge