

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

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### Amended - 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 afternoon for individuals who face a substantiated hardship appearing for Court in person such as residing out of state or having physical limitations.

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 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 Motion to 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 for a Request to Observe Criminal Proceedings Remotely, and at least two business days in advance of the hearing for a Motion to Appear Virtually. Requests can be submitted in person or online at [www.thorntonco.gov](http://www.thorntonco.gov) – Municipal Court – Court Documents & Forms.

The Court Specialist is hereby authorized to set cases on a virtual docket if the Defendant or defense attorney reside out of state at the time of the court hearing. The in-person court hearing may be vacated to accommodate the virtual setting.

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

Effective date: December 18, 2024  
Amended date: August 28, 2028



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Tiffany Sorice  
Presiding Municipal Judge