

Virtual Court Proceedings Committee

Meeting Minutes – November 6, 2020

Present: Chief Judge St. Peter, Marilyn Targos, Jen Olsen, Katherine Oliver, Jennie Leach, Judge Rush, Kim Schwarz, Chief Judge Berens, Judge Roush

Staff: Amber Smith, John Houston, Sarah Hoskinson

The minutes of the October 16, 2020 meeting were approved.

Judge St. Peter invited updates from the subcommittees.

Data Gathering Subcommittee

The subcommittee is in the process of surveying court system users (i.e. the public). Judges and others received an email on Nov. 5 with links to the latest survey; they were asked to circulate it to individuals involved with remote hearings. The survey period will run from Nov. 5 to Nov. 25.

Guidelines Subcommittee

The changes discussed at the last Virtual Court Proceedings Committee meeting were submitted to the Court for consideration. No additional action is needed from committee at this time.

Legislative Subcommittee

The legislative subcommittee met and reviewed Judge St. Peters' comments on the 2014 videoconferencing committee report. The subcommittee recommended the continuation of existing emergency authority to use audio visual communication in court proceedings until at least June 30, 2022. The subcommittee also recommended allowing use of remote proceedings to expeditiously resolve the case backlog, in addition to addressing health and safety concerns. The full committee concurred with these recommendations.

The committee discussed its future trajectory. Committee members agreed it would be helpful to begin considering case types and proceedings for which it may be appropriate to use audio-visual communication in the long term.

The committee will meet again on Friday, Jan. 15 at noon.