

## Remote Technology Hearing - Attorney Survey

### INTRODUCTION

The Minnesota Judicial Branch would like to know about your experience with remote hearings during the COVID-19 pandemic. A remote hearing is one in which you used remote hearing technology (e.g., Zoom, VMR) to participate in a proceeding. The survey should take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

Thank you very much for your time. Individual responses and comments will remain confidential and information will only be distributed in summary form. Please start the survey now by clicking the Next button below.

1. Please describe your current role. (Please select all that apply.)
  - a. Private attorney representing clients
  - b. Prosecutor or MN Attorney General's Office
  - c. Public attorney representing clients
  - d. Other
  
2. How many remote hearings have you participated in since the COVID pandemic began in March 2020? A remote hearing is one in which you used remote hearing technology (e.g., Zoom, VMR) to participate in a proceeding.
  - a. None [\[Skip to Q24\]](#)
  - b. 1-10
  - c. 11-30
  - d. 31-50
  - e. Over 50
  
3. Choose the case type(s) in which you have used remote hearing technology to participate in a hearing. Please select all that apply.
  - a. Criminal (Felony, Gross Misdemeanor, Misdemeanor)
  - b. Traffic/Parking ticket or other Petty Misdemeanor
  - c. Juvenile (under 18) criminal
  - d. Child Protection
  - e. Civil
  - f. Family
  - g. Order for Protection/Harassment Restraining Order
  - h. Probate
  - i. Other
  
4. Which remote hearing technology have you used most often?
  - a. Cisco Virtual Meeting Room (VMR)
  - b. WebEx
  - c. Zoom
  - d. Other – Please specify
  
5. In your experience, have you been able to navigate and easily use [\[pipe in response from Q4\]](#)?

- a. Yes
  - b. No
6. In your experience, how would you rate the overall user experience with [pipe in response from Q4]?
- a. Very good
  - b. Good
  - c. Neither good nor bad
  - d. Bad
  - e. Very bad

**Contested Hearings (A contested hearing is one in which evidence is presented and/or testimony is taken.)**

7. In your experience, how effective are contested hearings in a remote environment compared to in-person contested hearings?
- a. Much more effective
  - b. More effective
  - c. As effective
  - d. Less effective
  - e. Much less effective
  - f. No opinion/Not applicable
8. In your experience, which case type(s) are conducive to contested remote hearings? Please select all that apply.
- a. Criminal (Felony, Gross Misdemeanor, Misdemeanor)
  - b. Traffic/Parking ticket or other Petty Misdemeanor
  - c. Juvenile (under 18) criminal
  - d. Child Protection
  - e. Civil
  - f. Family
  - g. Order for Protection/Harassment Restraining Order
  - h. Probate
  - i. Other
  - j. No case types are conducive to contested remote hearings
9. I prefer to attend contested court hearings:
- a. In-person [skip to 11]
  - b. Remotely
  - c. Don't know/No opinion [skip to 11]
10. Why do you prefer remote hearings for contested matters? Please select all that apply. [only 9b]
- a. No travel time and travel costs
  - b. No parking costs

- c. Scheduled/Time certain hearings
  - d. Ability to appear in multiple counties on the same day
  - e. Easier for litigant to appear/Access to justice
  - f. Health safety (e.g. reduces COVID-19 risk)
  - g. Easier for witnesses/experts/other participants to appear
  - h. Other – please specify
11. Do you think remote hearing technology should continue to be used to conduct contested hearings after the pandemic?
- a. Yes
  - b. No
  - c. Don't know/No opinion
12. Do you have any additional comments regarding contested hearings in a remote environment?

### **Uncontested Hearings**

13. In your experience, how effective are uncontested hearings in a remote environment compared to in-person uncontested hearings?
- a. Much more effective
  - b. More effective
  - c. As effective
  - d. Less effective
  - e. Much less effective
  - f. No opinion/Not applicable
14. In your experience, which case type(s) are conducive to uncontested remote hearings? Please select all that apply.
- a. Criminal (Felony, Gross Misdemeanor, Misdemeanor)
  - b. Traffic/Parking ticket or other Petty Misdemeanor
  - c. Juvenile (under 18) criminal
  - d. Child Protection
  - e. Civil
  - f. Family
  - g. Order for Protection/Harassment Restraining Order
  - h. Probate
  - i. Other
  - j. No case types are conducive to uncontested remote hearings
15. I prefer to attend uncontested court hearings:
- a. In-person [skip to 17]
  - b. Remotely
  - c. Don't know/No opinion [skip to 17]
16. Why do you prefer remote hearings for uncontested matters? Please select all that apply. [only 15b]
- a. No travel time and travel costs

- b. No parking costs
  - c. Scheduled/Time certain hearings
  - d. Ability to appear in multiple counties on the same day
  - e. Easier for litigant to appear/Access to justice
  - f. Health safety (e.g. reduces COVID-19 risk)
  - g. Easier for witnesses/experts/other participants to appear
  - h. Other – please specify
17. Do you think remote hearing technology should continue to be used to conduct uncontested hearings after the pandemic?
- a. Yes
  - b. No
  - c. Don't know/No opinion
18. Do you have any additional comments regarding uncontested hearings in a remote environment?

### **Participant Experience**

19. In your experience, how often are litigants able to navigate and easily use the remote hearing technology?
- a. Most of the time
  - b. Some of the time
  - c. Rarely
  - d. Never
  - e. Don't know/Not applicable
20. In your experience, how do remote hearings affect access to justice for litigants?
- a. Greatly increase access to justice
  - b. Somewhat increase access to justice
  - c. Neither increase nor decrease access to justice
  - d. Somewhat decrease access to justice
  - e. Greatly decrease access to justice
  - f. No opinion/Not applicable
21. Have you participated in a remote hearing with a remote interpreter?
- a. Yes
  - b. No [\[skip to Q23\]](#)
  - c. Don't know [\[skip to Q23\]](#)
22. In your experience, how effective was remote interpretation?
- a. Very effective
  - b. Effective
  - c. Neither effective nor ineffective
  - d. Ineffective
  - e. Very ineffective

23. Do you have any comments about remote interpretation?

24. Is there anything else you would like to share regarding remote hearings?