

VICTORIA COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 2

COURT RULES FOR REMOTE HEARINGS

The Governor has declared a state of emergency and the Office of Court Administration (OCA) has suggested that all non-critical court proceedings should be suspended. However, technology and state law allows options not previously available. As such, Victoria County Court at Law No. 2 will continue to conduct hearings if the parties have the technology and desire to do so. The following restrictions and limitations will apply but should be similar to what is required for an in-person hearing. Any requests for a courtroom hearing will be considered but likely postponed. It is anticipated most parties will agree to a “virtual” hearing.

PROCEDURES FOR LITIGANTS:

Victoria County Court at Law No. 2 will be using Zoom video conferencing. It is free to download at zoom.us or you can download the app directly to your cell phone. The Court Reporter or Court Coordinator will email you a link to the hearing. Your computer must have internet access, a video camera and a microphone.

IF YOU CAN ONLY PARTICIPATE VIA TELEPHONE, YOU MUST COORDINATE WITH THE COURT REPORTER THE DAY BEFORE.

Ensure that the Court Reporter (rpayton@vctx.org) and the Court Coordinator (bwade@vctx.org) have your email address not later than 4 p.m. the day before any hearing. Because of the importance of the record, the Court Reporter, Regina, will be the “host” of all hearings.

FOR THE PUBLIC:

The Open Courts provision of Texas law allows all Texans access to court proceedings. As such the proceedings are available through the internet for public viewing at [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com) by searching under “Victoria County Court at Law #2” and selecting same. Any questions regarding viewing the proceedings may be directed to the Court Coordinator at 361-580-5761. The public may view or listen to proceedings but **VIDEO OR AUDIO RECORDING IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.**

Download at <http://zoom.us>

Before joining a meeting, check system requirements to avoid any connection issues at: <http://zoom.us/test>