

IN THE MOUNT VERNON MUNICIPAL COURT, MOUNT VERNON, OHIO

Journal Entry: Requesting a Zoom Hearing in Criminal and Traffic Cases pursuant to Ohio Criminal Rule and Ohio Traffic Rule 2(K)

1. A Defendant may request to appear via Zoom rather than in person for arraignments and pre-trial hearings BUT NOT FOR MOTION HEARINGS, BENCH TRIALS OR JURY TRIALS.
2. The request must be made by emailing the Clerk of Court AT LEAST ONE BUSINESS DAY BEFORE THE SCHEDULED HEARING:
clerkofcourt@mountvernonohio.org
3. The Defendant shall provide a valid email address WITH NO ATTACHMENTS.
4. The Defendant's name, date of birth, as well as the reason for the request, shall be included in the email.
5. All requests will be reviewed for approval by the Judge; typical reasons for granting a request are the Defendant lives too far from the Court to conveniently appear in person, the Defendant cannot miss work or the Defendant does not have a driver's license or reliable transportation.
6. Upon approval of a request, the Defendant will be emailed a Zoom link.
7. The Defendant shall join the meeting no later than 9:30 a.m., for arraignments and no later than 9:00 a.m. for pre-trial hearings.
8. FAILURE TO JOIN THE MEETING ON TIME MAY RESULT IN A WARRANT FOR THE DEFENDANT'S ARREST FOR FAILING TO APPEAR.
9. For arraignment hearings only the Defendant shall not mute the Courtroom because an audio recording will be played advising Defendants of their legal rights; the Judge will not repeat the statement of legal rights for you.
10. Zoom cases will be heard after all in-person cases in the Courtroom have been heard.
11. The Defendant will be asked for name, address, date of birth and the last four digits of the Defendant's social security number to confirm the Defendant's identity.
12. Proper courtroom etiquette shall be maintained throughout the hearing:
 - a. Be in a quiet space, free from distractions;
 - b. DO NOT CALL FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE;
 - c. Dress in Courtroom appropriate attire;
 - d. Do not eat, use tobacco products or vape; and
 - e. Allow camera access once your case is called (the Defendant's face must be well-lit and visible without using any filters).


John C. Thatcher, Judge

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MT. VERNON MUNICIPAL CT
LISARRAZZA, CLERK

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