

TITLE I

Chapter 3 - Judges, Facsimile Transmissions To The Court, and Technology-Related Rules

Rule 3.5 - Simultaneous Appearance by a Party or Witness by Audio-Visual Transmission

Appendix 3.5 - Court-Specific Rules Concerning Simultaneous Appearance by a Party or Witness by Audio-Visual Transmission

**First Judicial District
Court**

Parish of Caddo

**Second Judicial District
Court**

**Parishes of Bienville,
Claiborne and Jackson**

**Third Judicial District
Court**

**Parishes of Lincoln and
Union**

**Fourth Judicial District
Court**

**Parishes of Morehouse
and Ouachita**

**Fifth Judicial District
Court**

**Parishes of Franklin,
Richland and West
Carroll**

**Sixth Judicial District
Court**

**Parishes of East Carroll,
Madison and Tensas**

**Seventh Judicial District
Court**

**Parishes of Catahoula
and Concordia**

**Eighth Judicial District
Court**

Parish of Winn

**Ninth Judicial District
Court**

Parish of Rapides

Effective January 1, 2016;
amended effective January
1, 2018.

Pursuant to La. C.Cr.P. arts. 522 and 551, a defendant's appearance in this Court for the 230.1 hearing and the initial setting of bail may be accomplished by simultaneous transmission through audio-visual electronic equipment. The adoption of this local rule shall provide for a law enforcement officer having custody of an arrested person to fulfill the obligation imposed by La. C.Cr.P. art. 230.1(A) through presentation of the arrested person via simultaneous transmission by utilizing audio-visual electronic equipment.

A defendant's appearance at the following proceedings, may, at the discretion of the presiding judge, be made by simultaneous transmission through audio-visual electronic equipment:

1. Seventy-two hour hearing (included above)
2. Initial setting of bond (included above)
3. Any Pre-trial motion
4. Any hearing on Pre-trial motion
5. Arraignment
6. Any post-conviction proceeding and
7. Any other proceeding where specifically allowed by the Louisiana Code of Criminal Procedure relative to simultaneous Audio-Visual Transmission.

**Tenth Judicial District
Court**

Parish of Natchitoches

Amended effective April
22, 2020.

A. General Provisions.

(1) A proceeding conducted via simultaneous audio-visual transmission shall be conducted in the same manner as if the parties had appeared in person, and the judge presiding over the matter may exercise all powers consistent with the proceeding.

(2) In any proceeding conducted via simultaneous audio-visual transmission, the remote location(s) shall be considered an extension of the courtroom and held before the judge who is presiding. The judge's pronouncements, instructions, and rulings shall have the same force and binding effect as if all participants had been physically present in the courtroom. The presiding judge shall consider and rule on any objections of a party or non-party witness prior to beginning the proceeding. Counsel and participants shall appear appropriately dressed for court proceedings.

(3) An oath administered by the judge, court reporter, or other authorized person to a witness, interpreter, or a party in a proceeding conducted via simultaneous audio-visual transmission shall have the same force and binding effect as if the oath had been administered to a person physically present in the courtroom.

(4) All proceedings involving an appearance via simultaneous audio-visual transmission will be reported by a certified court reporter to the same extent and in the same manner as if all participants had appeared in person.

(5) In criminal proceedings, the Court will maintain public access to court proceedings, as provided by law, when a party or witness appears via simultaneous audio-visual transmission.

B. Application. These rules apply to proceedings in civil, family, criminal and post-conviction cases as set forth below. These rules do not apply to juvenile proceedings.

C. Requirements. In utilizing simultaneous audio-visual transmission, the following are required for use in criminal or civil proceedings:

1. Permission from the presiding judge or hearing officer.
2. Pre-approval from the presiding judge or hearing officer of any suggested simultaneous audio-visual transmission platform or software.
3. Any simultaneous audio-visual transmission must meet or exceed any minimum operational guidelines adopted by the Louisiana Supreme Court.
4. In civil proceedings, once an appearance via simultaneous audio-visual transmission has been approved by the presiding judge or hearing officer, all technical requirements and testing shall be the responsibility of the moving party.
5. A full record of the proceedings shall be made as provided in applicable statutes and rules; and
6. The court shall determine that all parties agree to appear at the proceeding by simultaneous audio-visual transmission unless such consent is not required as otherwise stated in the court rule; and
7. Provisions shall be made for use of interpreter services when necessary. In cases requiring interpreters for non-English speaking or hearing-impaired parties, absent compelling circumstances, the interpreter shall be physically present with the party requiring the service, and provisions shall be made to enable simultaneous appearance of both that party and the interpreter.
8. In criminal proceedings, provisions shall be made to ensure compliance with all victims' rights laws.

D. Civil and Family Court Proceedings. Circumstances in which an appearance via simultaneous audio-visual transmission may be allowed in civil and family court proceedings:

1. When the witness is beyond the subpoena power of the Court; and/or
2. When compelling circumstances are shown in accordance with La. Code Civ. P. art. 1633.1, or
3. upon agreement of the parties and the court.

E. Criminal Court Proceedings. Circumstances in which an appearance by simultaneous audio-visual transmission may be allowed in criminal court proceedings:

1. Defendant's appearance via simultaneous audio-visual transmission is precluded absent extraordinary circumstances and parties' consent for:
 - a. trial
 - b. contested probation violation/revocation hearing, or
 - c. felony sentencing.
2. It is at the sole discretion of the court and without the consent of the defendant to conduct the following via simultaneous audio-visual transmission, including videoconferencing,
 - a. 72-Hour hearing and Initial setting of bail in accordance with La. Code Crim. P. art. 522(A). Adoption of this local rule shall provide for a law enforcement officer having custody of an arrested person to fulfill the obligation imposed by La. Code Crim. P. art. 230.1(a) through presentation of the arrested person via simultaneous audio-visual transmission.
 - b. Felony or misdemeanor arraignment and entry of a plea in a non-capital case as prescribed by La. Dist. Ct. R. 18.1; La. Code Crim. P. art. 551, 553, 562 and 831-833. Any felony plea taken via simultaneous audio-visual transmission shall not include sentencing.
 - c. Any motion to continue which is limited to setting trial dates that do not involve any speedy-trial waiver of time under La. Code Crim. P. art. 701.
 - d. Any uncontested motion.
 - e. Any status or informal conference
 - f. A change of plea in a misdemeanor case.
 - g. Any post-conviction proceeding;

3. Except for those proceedings described in subparagraphs (E1) and (E2) above, the state and defense counsel or the state and a self-represented defendant, with the court's approval, may agree by written stipulation or upon the record to allow the defendant's appearance at any proceeding via a simultaneous audio-visual transmission, including teleconferencing, in the following proceedings:

- a. Any contested pre-trial motion or hearing on a pre-trial motion if approved by defense counsel in accordance with La. Code Crim. P. art. 522;
- b. Protected Person as defined in La. R.S. 15:283;
- c. Pretrial motion(s) in lawsuit brought by inmate relative to prison conditions or for injury or damages in accordance with La. R.S. 15:1184; and
- d. Testimony of those authorized pursuant to La. R.S. 15:502.

F. Expansion of Scope of Proceeding. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the court shall reschedule a proceeding via simultaneous audio-visual transmission to require the defendant's personal appearance if the scope of the herein expands beyond that specified in subparagraphs (E2) and (E3) above.

G. Court Has the Discretion to Modify Rules. Upon a showing of good cause either by motion of a party or upon its own motion, the Court may require a party to appear in person at a hearing, conference or proceeding listed above if the Court determines that a personal appearance would materially assist in the determination of the proceedings or in the effective management or resolution of the particular case.

Eleventh Judicial District Court

Parish of Sabine

Adopted November 13, 2017, effective November 13, 2017.

Pursuant to Louisiana Code of Criminal Procedure Articles 522 and 551, the Court may conduct seventy-two (72) hour hearings for the initial setting of bail, misdemeanor and non-capital felony arraignments by simultaneous transmission through audio-visual electronic equipment, with location of the equipment to be determined by the Court.

If approved by defense counsel, a defendant's appearance at the pretrial motion may be by simultaneous transmission through audio-visual electronic equipment.

Twelfth Judicial District Court

Parish of Avoyelles

Amended effective January 22, 2019.

The provisions of Code of Criminal Procedure Articles 551, 553, 556, 562 and all other applicable laws are hereby adopted.

Thirteenth Judicial District Court

Parish of Evangeline

Fourteenth Judicial District Court

Parish of Calcasieu

Effective January 1, 2016; amended effective December 7, 2021.

Pursuant to Louisiana Code of Criminal Procedure Articles 522, 551, 553, 556, 556.1, 562, and 835, the 14th Judicial District Court authorizes a criminal defendant's appearance via simultaneous transmission through audio-visual electronic equipment at the following types of hearings:

- 1) Seventy-two hour hearing and setting of bail;
- 2) Any pretrial motion or any hearing on a pretrial motion;
- 3) Arraignment and the entry of defendant's initial plea therein;
- 4) Any entry of defendant's plea of guilty or nolo contendere;
- 5) Any revocation hearing for a probation violation;
- 6) Any hearing for a contempt of court; and
- 7) Sentencing and/or the pronouncement of sentence by the Court;

Provided that any appearance via simultaneous audio-visual transmission is approved by the judge presiding over the hearing at which the appearance is being made.

Fifteenth Judicial District Court

Parishes of Acadia, Lafayette and Vermilion

Effective January 1, 2016; amended effective May 12, 2020.

Simultaneous appearance by a party or witness by audio-visual transmission is authorized in all proceedings as allowed by law and/or by order of the Louisiana Supreme Court. Pursuant to Rule 6.1 (e) and Appendix 6.1, no participant shall record any proceeding conducted via audio-visual transmission.

Sixteenth Judicial District Court

Parishes of Iberia, St. Martin and St. Mary

Effective January 1, 2016.

Unless defense counsel requests defendant's appearance in open court, defendant may appear for arraignment and enter his/her plea by way of simultaneous transmission through audio visual electronic equipment.

Seventeenth Judicial District Court

Parish of Lafourche

Effective October 30, 2017.

A defendant's appearance at the following proceedings may, at the discretion of the presiding judge, be made by simultaneous transmission through audio-visual electronic equipment:

1. Seventy-two hour hearing;
2. Initial setting of bond;
3. Any pretrial Motion;
4. Any hearing on Pretrial Motion;
5. Arraignment;
6. Any post-conviction proceeding; and
7. Any other proceeding where specifically allowed by the Code of Criminal Procedure relative to simultaneous Audio/Visual Transmission.

Eighteenth Judicial District Court

Parishes of Iberville, Pointe Coupee and West Baton Rouge

Nineteenth Judicial District Court

Parish of East Baton Rouge

Effective October 8, 2019; amended effective May 15, 2020; amended effective July 10, 2020.

CIVIL MATTERS

Upon determination by the presiding judge of the existence of special circumstances which dictate the necessity for such, the court in a civil case may order that any Hearing or Bench Trial be conducted via Video Conferencing. Consent of all parties is required, however, such consent shall not be unreasonably withheld by the party, which shall be enforced by the trial judge pursuant to the authority granted by Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure Article 191, or as otherwise expressly provided by law. All documentary evidence expected to be utilized at the Hearing or Trial shall be delivered to and received by the court and all parties at least seven (7) days prior to the Hearing or Trial, pre-marked and numbered. Physical evidence must be made available for examination by all parties at least seven (7) days prior to the Hearing or Trial. Other than for Summary Judgments, all evidence must be introduced during the Hearing or Trial. Parties are responsible for marshalling all evidence admitted during the Hearing or Trial and delivering same to the court within seven (7) days of the close of evidence, Parties are responsible for insuring that Notice and Service of Process have been given to all parties and witnesses.

CRIMINAL MATTERS

Pursuant to all of the provisions of Louisiana Code of Criminal Procedure article 562, a Defendant may waive his/her personal appearance in any traffic, misdemeanor, or felony offense, and may instead appear via simultaneous transmission through audio-visual electronic equipment for the following: arraignment, any preliminary matter or pretrial conference that does not involve the taking of testimony, at entry of his/her plea of guilty, and at any revocation hearing for a probation violation, including any hearing for contempt.

**Twentieth Judicial
District Court**

**Parishes of East Feliciana
and West Feliciana**

**Twenty-First Judicial
District Court**

**Parishes of Livingston,
St. Helena and
Tangipahoa**

**Twenty-Second Judicial
District Court**

**Parishes of St. Tammany
and Washington**

Effective January 1, 2016;
amended effective May 1,
2022.

1. Definitions.

(a) "Audiovisual transmission equipment" means an electronic device which enables encrypted software to permit an absent party or witness to participate in a court proceeding in real time.

(b) "Encrypted software" means software which provides authentication of the website and associated web server the Court is communicating with, which protects against so-called man-in-the-middle attacks. "Encrypted software" additionally provides bidirectional encryption of communications between the Court and an absent party or witness, which protects against eavesdropping and tampering with and/or forging the contents of the communication.

(c) "Court" means either a general or special jurisdiction court and includes any proceeding before a judge, commissioner or hearing officer.

2. Application. These rules apply to proceedings in civil, family, juvenile, criminal and post-conviction cases as set forth below.

3. Court pre-approval necessary. The Court requires pre-approval of a simultaneous appearance of a party or witness by the judge, commissioner or hearing officer conducting the proceeding.

4. Court not a guarantor of access to and/or use of audiovisual transmission equipment and/or encrypted software. If approved, the Court will make every effort to facilitate the simultaneous appearance by audiovisual transmission of a party or witness; however, the Court cannot guarantee access to and/or use of audiovisual transmission equipment and/or encrypted software.

5. Circumstances in which simultaneous appearance by audiovisual transmission equipment may be allowed.

(a) Civil and family court proceedings as allowable under the Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure, including but not limited to articles 1633.1 and 195.

(b) Criminal and post-conviction proceedings as allowable under the Louisiana Code of Criminal Procedure and the Revised Statutes, including but not limited to La. C.Cr.P. arts. 522, 551, 553, 556, 556.1, 562, 831, 835, La. R.S. 15:283, 15:1184 and 15:502.

6. Court discretion to modify rules. Upon a showing of good cause either by motion of a party or upon its own motion, the Court may require a party to appear in person at a hearing, conference or proceeding listed above if the Court determines that a personal appearance would materially assist in the determination of the proceedings or in the effective management or resolution of the particular case.

7. Need for personal appearance. If the Court determines at any time during a hearing, conference or

proceeding conducted by audiovisual transmission equipment that a personal appearance is necessary, the Court may continue the matter and require a personal appearance.

8. Court Reporting. All proceedings involving simultaneous appearance by audiovisual transmission equipment will be reported by a certified court reporter to the same extent and in the same manner as if all participants had appeared in person.

9. Public access. The Court will maintain public access to court proceedings, as provided by law, when a party or witness appears by means of simultaneous audiovisual transmission equipment.

Twenty-Third Judicial District Court

Parishes of Ascension, Assumption and St. James

Amended effective September 15, 2018.

A defendant's appearance at the following pre-trial matters may be by simultaneous transmission through audio-visual electronic equipment:

- 1) 72 hour hearing
- 2) Initial setting of bail
- 3) Any pre-trial motion
- 4) Any hearing on pre-trial motion
- 5) Arraignment
- 6) Any other proceeding where specifically allowed by the Code of Criminal Code Procedure relative to simultaneous audio-visual transmission.

Twenty-Fourth Judicial District Court

Parish of Jefferson

Jefferson Parish Juvenile Court

Parish of Jefferson

Effective January 24, 2022.

Pursuant to all of the provisions of the Louisiana Code of Criminal Procedure article 562, an incarcerated defendant, with the consent of the Court and the District Attorney, may waive his/her personal appearance in any traffic, misdemeanor, or felony offense, and may instead appear via simultaneous transmission through audio-visual electronic equipment for the following: answer hearing, any preliminary matter or pretrial conference that does not involve the taking of testimony, at entry of his/her plea of guilty, and at any revocation hearing for a probation violation, including any hearing for contempt.

Upon a showing of good cause either by motion of the district attorney, defense counsel or upon its own motion, the Court may require a personal appearance.

Twenty-Fifth Judicial District Court

Parish of Plaquemines

Effective January 1, 2016; amended effective March 20, 2019.

Pursuant to La. C.Cr.P. Articles 522 and 551, a defendant's appearance in this Court for the seventy-two (72) hour hearing and the initial setting of bail may be accomplished by simultaneous transmission through telephone or audio-visual electronic equipment.

The adoption of this local rule shall provide for a law enforcement officer having custody of an arrested person to fulfill the obligation imposed by La. C.Cr.P. Article 230.1(A) through presentation of the arrested person via simultaneous transmission by utilizing telephone or audio-visual electronic equipment. A defendant's appearance at the following proceedings, may, at the discretion of the judge, be made by simultaneous transmission through telephone or audio-visual electronic equipment:

1. Seventy-two hour hearing (included above)
2. Initial setting of bond (included above)
3. Any Pre-trial motion
4. Any hearing on Pre-trial motion
5. Arraignment
6. Any post-conviction proceeding and
7. Any other proceeding where specifically allowed by the Code of Criminal Procedure relative to simultaneous telephone or Audio-Visual Transmission.

Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court

CIVIL MATTERS

Parishes of Bossier and Webster

Effective July 22, 2020.

Upon determination by the presiding judge of the existence of special circumstances which dictate the necessity for such, the court in a civil case may order that any Hearing or Bench Trial be conducted via Video Conferencing. Consent of all parties is required, however, such consent shall not be unreasonably withheld by the party, which shall be enforced by the trial judge pursuant to the authority granted by Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure Article 191, or as otherwise expressly provided by law. All documentary evidence expected to be utilized at the Hearing or Trial shall be delivered to and received by the court and all parties at least seven (7) days prior to the Hearing or Trial, pre-marked and numbered. Physical evidence must be made available for examination by all parties at least seven (7) days prior to the Hearing or Trial. Other than for Summary Judgments, all evidence must be introduced during the Hearing or Trial. Parties are responsible for marshalling all evidence admitted during the Hearing or Trial and delivering same to the court within seven (7) days of the close of evidence. Parties are responsible for insuring that Notice and Service of Process have been given to all parties and witnesses.

Upon determination by the presiding Hearing Officer of the existence of special circumstances which dictated the necessity for such, the court in a Protective Order matter may order that the hearing be conducted via Video Conferencing. Consent of all parties is required, however, such consent shall not be unreasonably withheld by the party, which shall be enforced by the hearing officer or district judge pursuant to the authority granted by Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure Article 191, or as otherwise expressly provided by law.

CRIMINAL MATTERS

Pursuant to all of the provisions of Louisiana Code of Criminal Procedure article 562, when a Defendant is incarcerated, he/she may waive his/her personal appearance in any traffic, misdemeanor, or felony offense, and may instead appear via simultaneous transmission through audio-visual electronic equipment for the following: arraignment; any preliminary matter or pretrial conference that does not involve the taking of testimony; at entry of his/her plea of guilty; at any revocation hearing for a probation violation, including any hearing for contempt; and at any hearing for post-conviction relief.

Twenty-Seventh Judicial District Court

Parish of St. Landry

Effective January 1, 2016;
amended August 1, 2020.

At the court's option, a party may appear for the magistrate's hearing in person, through the telephone, or by audio-video electronic equipment.

Local Rule of the Uniform District Court Rules, State of Louisiana, Title I, Chapter 3, Rule 3.5 is amended to implement Act No. 160, House Bill No. 775, of the 2020 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature relative to the appearance by a defendant by means of simultaneous transmission through audio-visual electronic equipment at certain proceedings, including, but not limited to, the defendant's appearances at: (1) arraignment; (2) entry of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere; (3) a revocation or contempt hearing; (4) sentencing; and (5) at any other proceeding, hearing/motions or trial as may be allowed by law; and to provide for the related matters, all effective August 1, 2020.

Twenty-Eighth Judicial

Pursuant to Louisiana Code of Criminal Procedure Articles 522 and 551, a defendant's appearance in

District Court

Parish of LaSalle

Effective January 1, 2016;
amended effective March
16, 2020.

this court for the Article 230.1 hearing and the initial setting of bail may be accomplished by use of telephone or simultaneous transmission through audio-visual electronic equipment. The adoption of this local rule shall provide for a law enforcement officer having custody of an arrested person to fulfill the obligation imposed by Louisiana Code of Criminal Procedure Article 230.1(A) through presentation of the arrested person via simultaneous transmission by utilizing audio-visual electronic equipment.

A defendant’s appearance at the following proceedings may, at the discretion of the presiding judge, be made by simultaneous transmission through audio-visual electronic equipment:

1. Seventy-two hour hearings (included above);
2. Initial setting of bond (included above);
3. Any pre-trial motion;
4. Any hearing on pre-trial motion;
5. Arraignment;
6. Any post-conviction proceeding;
7. Any other proceeding where specifically allowed by the Louisiana Code of Criminal Procedure relative to simultaneous audio-visual transmission, including, but not limited to, Louisiana Code of Criminal Procedure Article 562.

**Twenty-Ninth Judicial
District Court**

Parish of St. Charles

Amended effective March
19, 2020.

Rule XIX. Simultaneous Appearance by Electronic Transmission

1. Definitions.

(a) “Audiovisual transmission equipment” means an electronic device which enables encrypted software to permit an absent party or witness to participate in a court proceeding in real time.

(b) “Encrypted software” means software which provides authentication of the website and associated web server the Court is communicating with, which protects against so-called man-in-the-middle attacks. “Encrypted software” additionally provides bidirectional encryption of communications between the Court an absent party, which protects against eavesdropping and tampering with and/or forging the contents of the communication.

(c) “Court” means either a general or special jurisdiction court and includes any proceeding before a judge.

2. Application. These rules apply to proceedings in civil, family, specialty court, criminal, and post-conviction cases as set forth below. These rules do not apply to juvenile cases.

3. Court pre-approval necessary. The Court may allow simultaneous audiovisual appearance of a party and/or their attorney of record by audiovisual transmission using encrypted software in a court proceeding only in instances pre-approved by all counsel of record and/or unrepresented parties to the case and by the presiding judge in those matters referenced in Rule 5 below.

4. The Court is not a guarantor of access to and/or use of audiovisual transmission equipment and/or encrypted software. If approved, the Court will make every effort to facilitate the simultaneous appearance by audiovisual transmission of a party and/or their counsel of record.

5. Pursuant to Louisiana Code of Criminal Procedure Articles 522 and 230.1, a defendant’s appearance in this Court for seventy-two (72) hour hearing and the initial setting of bail may be accomplished by simultaneous transmission through telephone or audiovisual equipment.

6. Pursuant to Louisiana Code of Criminal Procedure Articles 551 and 562, and upon request of both the district attorney and the defendant and/or defense counsel, and at the discretion of the presiding judge, a defendant a defendant charged with a misdemeanor or felony offense, who is confined in jail, prison, or other detention facility in Louisiana, may be permitted to appear in this Court for arraignment may be accomplished by way of simultaneous transmission through audiovisual transmission equipment.

7. Pursuant to Louisiana Code of Criminal Procedure Article 562, and upon request of both the district attorney and the defendant and/or defense counsel, and a waiver of personal appearance by the defendant, a defendant charged with a misdemeanor or felony offense, who is confined in jail, prison, or other detention facility in Louisiana, may be permitted to appear in this Court, at the discretion of the presiding judge, for (a) any preliminary matter or pretrial conference that does not involve the taking of testimony; (b) the entry of his plea of guilty; and (c) any revocation hearing for a probation violation, including any hearing for a contempt of court, by simultaneous audiovisual transmission.

8. Court Discretion. Upon showing of good cause either by motion of a party or upon its own motion, the Court may require a party to appear in person at a hearing, conference, or proceeding listed above if the Court determines that a personal appearance would materially assist in the determination of the proceedings or in the effective management or resolution of the particular case.

9. Court Reporting. All proceedings involving simultaneous appearance by audiovisual transmission equipment will be reported by a certified court reporter to the same extent and in the same manner as if all participants had appeared in person.

10. Public Access. The Court will maintain public access to proceedings, as provided by law, when a party appears by means of simultaneous audiovisual transmission equipment, unless public access is restricted by emergency order of this Court.

11. Status Conference. Upon request of all counsel of record, and at the discretion of the presiding judge, the Court may conduct a status conference in any civil, criminal, or domestic matter via simultaneous audiovisual transmission. Nothing herein shall prohibit all counsel of record from waiving the appearance of their represented client for purposes of participating in a status conference with the Court.

**Thirtieth Judicial District
Court**

Parish of Vernon

**Thirty-First Judicial
District Court**

Parish of Jefferson Davis

**Thirty-Second Judicial
District Court**

Parish of Terrebonne

**Thirty-Third Judicial
District Court**

Parish of Allen

**Thirty-Fourth Judicial
District Court**

Parish of St. Bernard

Magistrate Court shall be held at 9:15 A.M. or said earlier or later time set by the duty judge of each judicial day, and the defendant shall either appear in person or by use of telephone or audio-video electronic equipment as available in the St. Bernard Parish Jail.

Effective January 1, 2016;
amended effective
November 20, 2020.

Pursuant to Louisiana Code of Criminal Procedure Articles 522, 551, 553, 556, 556.1, 562, and 835, a defendant's appearance at the following proceedings may be made by simultaneous transmission through audio-visual electronic equipment:

1. Seventy-two hour hearing;
2. Initial setting of bail;
3. Any pretrial motion;
4. Any hearing on pretrial motion;
5. Arraignment;
6. Any post-conviction proceeding;
7. Entry of a plea of guilty on a non-capital felony or misdemeanor offense if the defendant is incarcerated in Louisiana;
8. Any revocation hearing for a probation violation, including any hearing for contempt, if the defendant is incarcerated in Louisiana;
9. Pronouncement of sentence;
10. Any other proceeding where specifically allowed by the Code of Criminal Code Procedure relative to simultaneous Audio/Visual Transmission.

**Thirty-Fifth Judicial
District Court**

A defendant's appearance at the following proceedings may, at the discretion of the presiding judge, be made by simultaneous transmission through audio-visual electronic equipment:

Parish of Grant

Effective January 1, 2016;
amended effective March
26, 2020.

1. Any hearing conducted pursuant to La. Code of Criminal Procedure Article 230.1;
2. Initial setting of bond;
3. Pretrial conference;
4. Hearing on a Pretrial Motion that does not involve the taking of testimony;
5. Arraignment;
6. Entry of plea of guilty or nolo contendere;
7. Revocation hearing for a probation violation;
8. Hearing for contempt of court;
9. Any post-conviction proceeding; and
10. Any other proceeding where specifically allowed by the Code of Criminal Procedure relative to simultaneous Audio/Visual Transmission.

**Thirty-Sixth Judicial
District Court**

Civil

Parish of Beauregard

Amended effective August
27, 2021; amended
effective October 26, 2021;

Pursuant to Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure Article 1633.1: The court may order, upon a showing of appropriate safeguards, live testimony of a witness to be presented in open court by teleconference, video link, or other visual remote technology, if the witness is beyond the subpoena power of the court or when compelling circumstances are shown. The order may be entered at a pretrial conference or, in exceptional circumstances, on motion set for hearing at least ten days prior to trial or at another time that does not prejudice the parties.

Pursuant to Louisiana Code of Criminal Procedure Articles 522 and 551, a defendant's appearance at the following proceedings may, at the discretion of the judge, be made by simultaneous transmission through audio-visual electronic equipment:

1. Seventy-two-hour hearing;
2. Initial setting of bond;
3. Any pre-trial motion;
4. Any hearing on pre-trial motion;
5. Arraignment;
6. Misdemeanor or felony guilty pleas if the defendant is incarcerated;
7. Any post-conviction proceeding; and
8. Any other proceeding where specifically allowed by the Code of Criminal Procedure relative to simultaneous audio-visual transmission.

Electronic Recordings of Protected Persons

Pursuant to La. R.S. 15:440.2, this Court authorizes the videotaping of any protected person without the necessity of the issuance of an order by the court in any individual case, pursuant to La. R.S. 15:440.1 through La. R.S. 15:440.6, Electronic Recording Protected Persons statutes. Such videotape shall be available for introduction as evidence in a juvenile or adult criminal proceeding if they meet the requirements set forth in La. R.S. 15:440.4 and La. R.S. 15:440.5.

Thirty-Seventh Judicial District Court

The provisions of Code of Criminal Procedure Articles 551, 553, 556, 562 and all other applicable laws are hereby adopted.

Parish of Caldwell

Enacted effective March
16, 2020.

Pursuant to La. C.Cr.P. Articles 522 and 551, a defendant's appearance in this Court for the seventy-two (72) hour hearing and the initial setting of bail may be accomplished by simultaneous transmission through telephone or audio-visual electronic equipment. The adoption of this local rule shall provide for a law enforcement officer having custody of an arrested person to fulfill the obligation imposed by La. C.Cr.P. Article 230.1(A) through presentation of the arrested person via simultaneous transmission by utilizing telephone or audio-visual electronic equipment.

A defendant's appearance at the following proceedings, may, at the discretion of the presiding judge, be made by simultaneous transmission through telephone or audio-visual electronic equipment:

1. Seventy-two hour hearing (included above)
2. Initial setting of bond (included above)
3. Any Pre-trial motion
4. Any hearing on Pre-trial motion
5. Arraignment
6. Any post-conviction proceeding and
7. Any other proceeding where specifically allowed by the Louisiana Code of Criminal Procedure relative to simultaneous telephone or Audio-Visual Transmission.

Thirty-Eighth Judicial District Court

Parish of Cameron

**Thirty-Ninth Judicial
District Court**

Parish of Red River

**Fortieth Judicial District
Court**

**Parish of St. John the
Baptist**

Civil District Court

Parish of Orleans

Criminal District Court

Parish of Orleans

Effective January 1, 2016.

A defendant's appearance at the following proceedings may, at the discretion of the judge, be made by simultaneous transmission through audio-visual electronic equipment:

1. Seventy-two hour hearing;
 2. Initial setting of bond;
 3. Any pretrial Motion;
 4. Any hearing on Pretrial Motion;
 5. Arraignment;
 6. Any post-conviction proceeding; and
 7. Any other proceeding where specifically allowed by the Code of Criminal Code Procedure relative to simultaneous Audio/Visual Transmission.
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**Orleans Parish Juvenile
Court**

Parish of Orleans

Amended effective April 1,
2024.

The Court may authorize a youth in a delinquency proceeding, whether detained or not and in dependency case to appear simultaneously through audio-visual electronic equipment.

**Forty-Second Judicial
District Court**

Parish of DeSoto

Effective January 1, 2020.

Pursuant to all of the provisions of Louisiana Code of Criminal Procedure Articles 551, et seq. and Articles 831, et seq. when a defendant is incarcerated, he/she may waive his/her personal appearance in any traffic, misdemeanor, or felony offense, and may instead appear via simultaneous transmission through audio-visual electronic equipment for the following: Arraignment, any preliminary matter or pretrial conference, at the entry of his/her plea of guilty, at sentencing and at any revocation hearing for a probation violation, including any hearing for contempt. All seventy-two (72) hour bond hearings shall be conducted via simultaneous transmission through audio-visual electronic equipment.
