

CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON
JUDGE, HAYS COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 2

FILED

2025 JUL 30 PM 3:09



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In accordance with Tex. Fam. Code § 54.012 the Hays County Court-at-Law, sitting as Juvenile Court, adopts the following plan for remotely conducted detention hearings held in Hays County:

1. This plan only applies to juvenile detention hearings. Participants in adjudication and disposition hearings will be required to appear in person. For purposes of this plan, "remote hearing" means a juvenile detention hearing where one or more participants appears remotely.
2. After giving notice to all parties and receiving permission from the court, any participant may appear remotely in a detention hearing. Likewise, the Court may require that any or all participants appear remotely. The Court will use Zoom software to conduct all remote hearings. The Court will email a hearing invitation to the attorneys, who are then responsible for providing it to their client and witness(es). The Court will be the "host" of all remote hearings.
3. Each attorney will ensure that their client or witness(es) will have access to an internet connected device with audio and video capabilities PRIOR to that individual's remote appearance. Only those witnesses who are visible on camera will be permitted to testify remotely. Non-party witnesses who appear remotely should be prepared to present a valid form of identification to verify identity to the Court and should be prepared to display their surroundings if requested by the Court to guarantee an absence of coercion. Witnesses who are not on camera will not be permitted to testify under most circumstances.

4. The court will ensure that each remote participant has the ability to see and hear the people participating in the courtroom. The court will ensure that a video feed will be provided to courtroom participants so that the remote participants can see the attorneys who are asking questions and the witnesses who are testifying.

5. To ensure public access when required and to ensure that all parties can see and hear the proceedings, any remote hearing will be broadcast on a digital monitor in the courtroom or, in the event of an entirely remote hearing, a similar location designated and set aside in a publicly-accessible area of the Hays County Juvenile Detention Center.

6. Attorneys will email all exhibits to be offered during a remote hearing to opposing counsel and the Court Coordinator no later than 24 hours before that hearing, or as soon as practicable.

7. The presentation and offering of physical evidence in remote hearings will be conducted in the following manner:

1) if the presenting attorney is in the courtroom and the witness is remote, the presenting attorney will share the file via Zoom using the "Share Screen" option;

2) if the presenting attorney is remote and the witness is in the courtroom, the Court or other officer(s) at the Court's direction will print and provide copies to the witness;

3) if both the presenting attorney and the witness are remote, the attorney shall share the file via Zoom using the "Share Screen" option;

4) if both the attorney and the witness are in the courtroom, presentation and offering of evidence will proceed in the usual fashion.

8. To keep the court open and available to the public, all remote hearings will be conducted from the courtroom or from a similar location designated and set aside for that purpose at the Hays County Juvenile Detention Center. If a situation arises that requires the Court to conduct an entirely remote hearing (with ALL participants appearing remotely), the hearing will either be broadcast on a TV or monitor in the courtroom, on a TV or monitor in the lobby of the Juvenile Detention Facility, or both. IN THE SAME MANNER THAT IT IS ILLEGAL TO RECORD

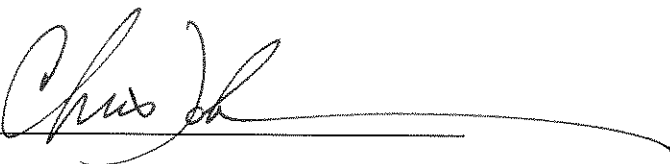
COURTROOM PROCEEDINGS WITHOUT THE COURT'S PERMISSION, IT IS ILLEGAL TO RECORD THE VIDEOCONFERENCE OR LIVE STREAM WITHOUT THE COURT'S PERMISSION.

9. Dress codes have not changed. All participants who appear remotely should dress appropriately.

10. A recording will be made of all communications, and the attorney for the child may obtain a copy of the recording on payment of the costs of producing the copy. This recording shall be preserved until the earlier of:

- (1) the 91st day after the date on which the recording is made if the child is alleged to have engaged in conduct constituting a misdemeanor;
- (2) the 120th day after the date on which the recording is made if the child is alleged to have engaged in conduct constituting a felony; or
- (3) the date on which the adjudication hearing ends.

ADOPTED July 30, 2025

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chris Johnson", is written over a horizontal line.

Judge Christopher Johnson
Hays County Court at Law #2
Sitting as Juvenile Court