

Remote Hearings



Because of COVID-19 many courtrooms have changed the way they operate. Many courts hold general hearings remotely. That means some or all of the people participate by video or by phone. Read below to know how to prepare for a remote hearing.

How do I know if I have a remote hearing?



The court will notify you if your hearing is remote. They may contact you by U.S. mail, email, or phone.

What if I don't have Internet or a phone?

Contact the court as soon as possible. They will

- Postpone the hearing so you may appear in person.

What if I cannot join at the scheduled hearing time?

You must have a good reason why you cannot be present at the scheduled time. And you must tell the court *before* the hearing. Go to your court's website. It will explain how to contact the court.

Will the court tell me how to join the remote hearing?

Yes. The court will send you instructions on how to join your remote hearing by video or by phone. Courts may use different apps and processes. For additional information visit the court website at www.brightonco.gov/court.

How to Get Ready for Your Remote Hearing



Make sure you have good Internet connection.



Download the apps used by Brighton: Qless and Zoom. Practice with the apps so you feel comfortable.



Charge your computer or mobile device. If you are calling in by phone, make sure you have enough minutes.



Use earbuds or headphones, if you can. This frees up your hands, and improves sound quality.



You may ask the court how you will be receiving additional information regarding your case.

Get Your Space Ready!



- Find a quiet place where no one will interrupt you.
- Know what time your hearing starts and how to log in.



Look Good!

- Set the camera at your eye level. If using your phone, prop it up so you can look at it without holding it.
- Look at the camera, not the screen, when you speak.
- Dress neatly, this is still considered a courtroom.
- Sit in a well-lit room, not too dark, not too bright



Sound Good!

- Pause before speaking in case there is any audio/video lag.
- Mute yourself when not speaking to improve sound quality.
- Talk slowly and do not interrupt.

What should I expect during the hearing?



The Judge will make sure you can hear and talk, and go over all the rules.



Your hearing is live and will be recorded. Everyone there can hear what you say. It may even be open to the public.



The Judge will review the offer provided in your case by the City Prosecutor.



You may accept the offer and receive your sentence; you may request a continuance to speak with an attorney; you may request to speak with the City Prosecutor; you may enter a plea of not guilty and set your case for trial.



Important! You may be connecting from home, but it is still a court hearing. Pay attention, and follow all rules.