

The Honorable Cheryl A. Matthews

COVID-19 EMERGENCY PROTOCOLS

These protocols will continue in effect until further order of the Court.

Courtroom Proceedings

The Court is conducting proceedings in-person and via Zoom. All jury trials will proceed in-person. All bench trials and evidentiary hearings will be conducted in-person, unless Judge Matthews' staff instructs otherwise. Please feel free to contact Judge Matthews' staff prior to your bench trial and/or hearing date to confirm that you will be required to appear in-person.

Civil Pretrials

Pretrials will likely be conducted via electronic means, including Zoom video and/or audio conferences, Judge On-Line telephone conferences, and similar means, as is necessary.

Criminal Call

All criminal proceedings are being held in person. Arraignments, pretrials, sentencings, and violation of probation hearings are held on Tuesdays beginning at 1:00 pm. Arraignment by mail (ABM) submission will be considered at the Court's discretion. Please contact Ashley Williams for more information at (248) 858-5840.

Motions

Scheduling of Summary Disposition Motions. All motions for summary disposition will continue to follow the normal protocol (i.e., Chambers will issue a specific scheduling order for briefing and hearing).

Scheduling of Appeals. Hearings on general civil and criminal appeals will continue to follow the normal protocol (i.e., to be briefed and heard pursuant to the respective Michigan Rules of Court, unless otherwise stipulated).

Scheduling of Discovery Motions and Motions for Default or Default Judgment. Discovery motions and motions for default judgments will be heard.

Motions to Adjourn. Please file a motion. The Court will not accept a stipulated order.

Scheduling of All Other Motions. The Oakland County Circuit Court is accepting praecipes to set motions for hearing. You must file a praecipe in order to place your motion on the docket to be considered by Judge Matthews. The moving party must file a Notice of Hearing which states that the hearing will go forward via Zoom at 8:30 a.m. Judge Matthews may dispense with oral argument on a motion in accordance with MCR 2.119(E)(3). If the Court does not dispense with oral argument, the Court staff will contact the parties the day before the hearing to let them know the Zoom ID and their Zoom hearing time. The actual Zoom hearing may be between 8:30 a.m. and noon. The Court is flexible and can work with parties and litigants to avoid scheduling conflicts.

Please email floodr@oakgov.com and wortmank@oakgov.com or call 248-858-0332 for civil matters. For criminal matters, please contact Ashley Williams at williamsam@oakgov.com or 248-858-5840.

ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS	
Tablets and Phones: Install the Zoom App from the App Store or Play Store prior to the call. At the time of the call launch the Zoom app and join using Meeting ID 248 858 0332	Desktop PCs and Laptops: Go to the Zoom Web Site (zoom.us). Click on “Join a Call.” Join using Meeting ID 248 858 0332
Audio-only via Telephone: Call (646) 876 9923 or (669) 900 6833 and connect using Meeting ID 248 858 0332	Or click this link.

PUBLIC ACCESS TO HEARINGS

- ◆ Each judge is provided a Zoom Room where recordings are stored in the cloud.
- ◆ Any court proceedings recorded (but not streamed) at the time of the hearing would be made public.
- ◆ Viewers can choose to view anonymously.
- ◆ Links to the Zoom cloud recordings will be posted on Oakgov website.
- ◆ Anyone can view.
- ◆ The links to the hearings will be available at the end of the day for 24 hours.
- ◆ Anyone can download or otherwise copy the video while it is posted.
- ◆ No viewer can participate in the hearing.