King County
District Court

Effective November 1, 2026, the following are the attendance rules in all King County District Court locations regarding Criminal hearings, Infraction hearings, and Protection Order hearings.

General Rules:

1. All parties appearing remotely shall comply with Washington State Administrative Rules for Courts of Limited Jurisdiction Rule 3 (13) and (14), and 15, and Washington State General Rule 11.
2. Attorneys shall not appear remotely if their clients are in person unless there is a CrRLJ 3.4 appearance waiver.
3. Once a case has been pending for 6 months, from arraignment or waiver of arraignment, no remote appearances will be allowed without prior permission of the court upon the written motion of a party and with good cause shown.
4. Pleadings, evidence, or any other documents shall not be submitted remotely through any remote platform (*e.g.,* Zoom Chat). If the ECourt portal is not functioning, documentation can be submitted through email with the permission of the judge.
5. Remote participants shall not unmute or turn on camera without judicial permission.
6. Remote participants shall be unmuted and have their camera on during their hearing.
7. All remote participants shall wear court-appropriate attire.
8. Remote participants shall not appear while inside a moving vehicle.
9. Remote participants shall be in a location where they can see and hear court proceedings without interference.
10. Remote participants shall comport their behavior as if they were in court (*e.g.,* no smoking, no inappropriate attire, no lying in bed).
11. Remote participants shall be stationary during any remote appearance.
12. Interpreters may appear remotely for every hearing except testimonial motions and trial. Exceptions to an interpreters' in-person appearance requirement will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances and for good cause shown. Requests for exceptions will only be considered by written motion filed <u>in advance</u> of the hearing and shall be considered by the Judge on whose calendar the hearing is scheduled.

<u>Arraignment:</u>

- All parties shall appear in person.

<u>Pre Trial Hearings:</u>

- Defendants may appear in person or remotely if in accordance with this rule. If a defendant is entering a disposition, they and their attorney shall appear in person.

<u>Testimonial Motions:</u>

- All parties, attorneys and witnesses shall appear in person. Interpreters may appear remotely with prior permission of the judge upon good cause shown.

<u>Trials:</u>

- All parties, attorneys and witnesses shall appear in person. Interpreters may appear remotely with prior permission of the judge upon good cause shown.

Entry of Guilty Plea, Stipulated Order of Continuance, or Deferred Prosecution:

- All parties and their attorneys shall appear in person.

Sentencing:

- All parties and their attorneys shall appear in person.

Review Hearings:

- All parties and their attorneys shall appear in person.

Jury Call:

- Defendants may appear in person or remotely. If a defendant appears in person, their attorney shall also attend in person.

Bench Warrant Quash Hearings:

- All parties and their attorneys shall attend in person unless the defendant is in-custody at another location.

In-Custody Hearing:

- Parties may appear remotely if the defendant is in custody. If the defendant has bailed out of custody, the parties shall appear in person at the next in-custody hearing date unless an out of custody date has been set.

Infractions:

- All parties may appear remotely, in person, or by telephone. If a participant appears in person, their attorney shall also attend in person.

Protection Order Hearings:

- All parties may appear remotely, in person, or by telephone, consistent with the statute. If a party appears in person, their attorney shall also attend in person

Small Claims:

- All parties shall appear in person.