

County Criminal Court
Virtual Appearance Procedures

FOR ATTORNEYS

Consistent with Rule 3.116(c)(1) of the Fla. R. Crim. P., attorneys may appear electronically for arraignments and pretrials, which are non-evidentiary and expected to take less than thirty minutes. A written motion is not required, and an order will not be issued.

In-person appearance by counsel and defendants is required for the following:

- Sentencing
- Evidentiary hearings
- Docket Call
- Jury Selection
- Trial

If an attorney is requesting a continuance, confers with the State, the State does not object, and the case has been pending fewer than 180 days, the case may be continued without formal court appearance, *i.e.*, prior to the judge's appearance on the bench.

If a defendant is entering a plea and fingerprints are not required, the Court may accept a plea over Zoom. For charges that require fingerprints (see list below), the case will be set for sentencing, and the defendant and counsel must appear in person. The Court may make an exception to this requirement if fingerprint cards are filed with the clerk prior to the plea being entered.

Fingerprints are required for:

- Battery/DV
- DUI/BUI
- Violation of Injunction
- Stalking
- Weapons Charges
- All thefts