

**JUDICIAL PRACTICE PREFERENCES
LOCAL ORDINANCE VIOLATIONS – Section P
THE HONORABLE KATHLEEN T. HESSINGER**

GENERAL RULES

Communication with Court: All communication with the Court regarding substantive matters relating to a case will be made in court, with all counsel/parties present, and on the record. All non-ex parte communications to the Court (scheduling, procedural questions, etc.) shall be made by contacting the Court’s judicial assistant, Tracy, by telephone, email (with copy to opposing counsel or pro se litigant) or other written communication (with copy to opposing counsel or pro se litigant.)

Quiet courtroom please – While the Court is conducting a hearing at the podium, all other conversation between litigants, attorneys, and/or witnesses should take place in the hall outside the courtroom.

Written motions – Unless the Florida Rules of Criminal Procedure state otherwise, all motions must be in written form, filed with the Clerk and set for hearing with the judicial assistant. This Court recognizes that *periodically* an ore tenus motion may be necessary due to an issue that unexpectedly arises in court. **Proposed orders** should be emailed to the judicial assistant prior to the hearing except on larger substantive motions.

Case law: If either party wants this Court to review case law before a hearing, especially an evidentiary hearing, please provide the case law to the Court within three (3) business days before the hearing. The case law can be delivered to judicial reception with a call to the Court’s judicial assistant to retrieve the case law or hand delivered to the Court in the courtroom.

DISCOVERY ISSUES

The parties must confer and make a good faith attempt to resolve discovery matters without a hearing. If a hearing is necessary, a written motion shall be filed and scheduled either in open court with the opposing party present or with the Judicial Assistant on a date agreed upon by both parties.

ARRAIGNMENTS, PRETRIALS, AND TRIALS

Continuances: Parties must file a written motion and order to continue an arraignment, pretrial conference, or trial no later than noon on the Friday of the week prior to the applicable hearing. Motions must fully set forth grounds necessitating the continuance.

Zoom: Effective July 1, 2024, pursuant to Fla. R. Crim. P. 3.116 (c)(1), a request may be made to appear for a non-evidentiary pretrial hearing scheduled for 30 minutes or less, and will be granted unless the Court has good cause to deny it. Parties must file a written request to appear by Zoom no later than noon on the Friday of the week prior to any pretrial conference. All persons appearing on Zoom, including attorneys, must be appropriately dressed for court and behave as if present in court...i.e., no appearances on Zoom while driving, at a doctor’s

appointment, at the grocery store, at the beach or anything of the like. Future Zoom appearances will not be permitted for anyone violating these guidelines.

DISCLAIMER

If any judicial preference set forth herein conflicts with any applicable Florida Rule of Procedure, then the rule of procedure prevails.