

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Access to Videoconference and Teleconference Hearings

Because on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency and has signed implementing legislation, the Middle District of Florida temporarily permits a qualifying criminal hearing by videoconference or, in a limited circumstance, by teleconference.¹

Anyone can access a videoconference or a teleconference hearing through an automated sign-up tool at <http://flmd.uscourts.gov/webforms/request-remote-courtroom-proceedings-press-and-public>. Direct any question about access to flmd_public_access@flmd.uscourts.gov

Local Rule 5.01 prohibits broadcasting, televising, recording, or photographing a judicial proceeding, including a proceeding by telephone or video. Anyone violating Local Rule 5.01 faces **sanctions**, including removal of court-issued media credentials, restriction, or denial of entry to future hearings, and other sanctions imposed by the judge. A lawyer who violates or knowingly permits or induces a violation of Local Rule 5.01 faces serious discipline.

Dated: February 4, 2021

Elizabeth Warren

Elizabeth Warren, Clerk of Court

¹ On March 13, 2020, under the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. §§ 1601–1651, the President of the United States declared a national emergency. On March 27, 2020, the President signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, H.R. 748 (the CARES Act), which authorized the Judicial Conference of the United States to provide the Chief Judge of a United States District Court authority to permit identified criminal proceedings by video or audio conference. After Judicial Conference authorization, the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida issued general orders supporting videoconference and teleconference civil and criminal hearings. The Middle District of Florida supports the presumption of public access to virtual court proceedings while operating under [Administrative Order 8:20-mc-25](#).