

Wilmes, Bethany

From: Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings <MNOAH@public.govdelivery.com>
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To: Wilmes, Bethany
Subject: COVID-19: OAH update - March 19

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COVID-19 update

New scheduling changes

Mediations

Beginning **March 20**, all mediations will be held by telephone.

This change is being made to free up larger hearing rooms for hearings that cannot be held by telephone. Only our larger hearing rooms allow CDC-recommended social distancing (maintaining 6 feet of distance between individuals). If you do not want your mediation held by telephone, [email LeeAnn Cary](#) to reschedule an in-person mediation to a later date.

Asbestos conferences

Beginning **March 20**, all asbestos conferences will be held by telephone. You will receive a conference call number from the presiding judge ahead of the conference.

Exhibits

We understand that many of your physical offices are closed and you do not have access to the printers you would normally use to print exhibits.

Going forward you must **eFile your exhibits** at least **one day in advance** of the hearing. This **applies to all hearings**: motion hearings, attorney fee hearings, and in-person and video evidentiary hearings. This supersedes any other order that requires paper filings.

Frequently asked questions

Can I get a continuance?

Evidentiary hearings are continuing as scheduled at this time. Decisions on any **Motions for Continuance** will be made by the assigned judge on a case-by-case basis.

Can I get my IME deadline extended?

Parties having difficulty completing the IME process within the time period provided by law may move the court for an extension. Minn. Stat. 176.151, subd. 1 provides that such motions shall be granted “upon good cause shown.”

What are the logistics for telephone proceedings?

1. **Notices** on individual cases **will not be re-issued** to show an updated location.
2. OAH’s [Online Docket Calendar](#) will list the location as **TP-TELEPHONE**.
3. Some judges may communicate a conference call number in some situations to accommodate the number of parties participating.
4. If a conference call number is not used, it is **your responsibility** to ensure the assigned judge has the correct phone number to reach you **in advance of the proceeding**. If the judge needs to contact you on a cell phone, or call an associate, **email the telephone number** to the assigned judge **in advance of the conference**.
5. If individuals appear in person, OAH receptionists will direct them to a telephone room at OAH. Alternatively, individuals may choose to have the judge call them on their cell phone. OAH receptionists will email the judge to notify them what number to call to reach that person.
6. Scheduled interpreters will continue to appear in person with the judge, with all other parties appearing by phone. CDC-recommended social distancing (maintaining 6 feet of distance between individuals) will be utilized.

Reminders

All Stipulation Status Conferences suspended

Beginning **Monday, March 16**, all **Stipulation Status Conferences** are **cancelled** until further notice. **Notices** on individual cases **will not be re-issued**.

All conferences by phone

Beginning **Monday, March 16**, all **settlement conferences, 239 conferences, 106 conferences, pretrial conferences, motion hearings, and attorney fee hearings in workers’ compensation** will be held **by telephone** until further notice. Workers’ Compensation Judges will call parties and join them together on a telephone call at the already scheduled time.

What we need from you

Stay home if you need to

Please do not come to court if you are experiencing any flu-like symptoms, have a fever, are coughing or sneezing, or have been directed to self-quarantine as a precaution. If your client or a witness is experiencing these symptoms, **please do not bring them to court**.

If you cannot attend court because you are sick or quarantined, call or email the assigned judge.

Watch for more updates

The COVID-19 outbreak is an evolving situation, and our response will continue to evolve with it. We will use **this GovDelivery system** to notify court users of any other changes caused by COVID-19. If you need to register, visit [OAH's website](#) and use the popup window to sign up.

Ask questions

If you have any questions, please **reply** to this email.

Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings

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