



## Protocol for Oral Arguments Before the Minnesota Court of Appeals During COVID-19 Pandemic

(Last revised 6/6/2022)

**The Minnesota Court of Appeals schedules oral arguments both in-person at the Minnesota Judicial Center in St. Paul and remotely via ZoomGov.**

### **In-Person Arguments**

- **Security screening** will be conducted at the point of entry. All bags, belongings, and files must pass through a metal detector. No firearms are allowed.
- Anyone who has **symptoms of COVID-19** or has had close contact with someone recently diagnosed with COVID-19 is not permitted to attend or present in-person arguments.
- Attorneys may **request a medical accommodation, to argue via ZoomGov**, by e-filing and e-serving a request (e-filing type: Correspondence - Incoming) within 7 days of receiving a Notice of Oral Argument setting argument to take place in person.
- **Face coverings** are optional in the Minnesota Judicial Center and during oral argument.
- Attorneys are permitted (but not required) to remove face coverings while presenting oral argument to the court.
- Attorneys appearing on a case will have the option use **separate microphones** in order to maintain social distance during arguments.
- The **space to accommodate observers, clients, and colleagues is limited** to allow for distancing.
- **Audio recordings** of oral arguments are usually available on the court's website within 24 hours.

### **ZoomGov Remote Arguments**

- **Instructions for participating** in ZoomGov oral arguments before the Minnesota Court of Appeals are available in a brief video at <https://youtu.be/LEZcUti1MVs>.
- To access the **link to the ZoomGov oral argument**, attorneys, litigants, and other observers should visit the MJB website at <https://mncourts.gov/CourtOfAppeals.aspx#tab02Calendar> on the day of oral argument.
- **ZoomGov practice sessions** with court staff can be scheduled upon request for the Monday before oral argument. If, after watching the video, an attorney wishes to schedule a ZoomGov practice session, contact [Suzanne.Segl@courts.state.mn.us](mailto:Suzanne.Segl@courts.state.mn.us).

### **In case of illness or emergency precluding an attorney from appearing as scheduled**

(a) notify opposing counsel by telephone or text; (b) notify the court by e-filing and e-serving correspondence, if possible; and (c) contact the court by telephone 651-291-5297, if possible.

Oral arguments will be rescheduled as soon as possible, either in-person or by ZoomGov.