

CrRSMC 3.4
VIDEO CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

A. Criminal: Preliminary appearances as defined by CrRLJ 3.2.1(d), arraignments as defined by CrR 3.4 and 4.1 and CrRLJ 3.4 and 4.1, bail hearings as defined by CrR3.2 and CrRLJ 3.2, and trial settings as defined by CrR 3.3 and CrRLJ 3.3(f), and pre-trial hearings as determined by the court, conducted via video conference in which all participants can simultaneously see, hear, and speak with each other shall be deemed held in open court and in the defendant's presence for the purposes of any statute, court rule or policy. All video conference hearings conducted pursuant to this rule shall be public, and the public shall be able to simultaneously see and hear all participants and speak as permitted by the court. Any party may request an in-person hearing which may, in the court's discretion, be granted.

B. Agreement: Other trial court proceedings including the entry of a Statement of Defendant on Plea of Guilty as defined by CrR 4.2 and CrRLJ 4.2 may be conducted by video conference only by agreement of the parties. The defendant will be deemed to have agreed to voluntarily participate in court proceedings in Shelton Municipal Court by video conference unless the defendant or counsel for the defendant notifies the court at the time of the proceeding that he/she objects to the proceeding being conducted via video conference. The right to object to video conference proceedings will be deemed waived if not exercised prior to the start of the video conference hearing.

C. Standards for Video Conference Proceedings: The Judge, counsel, all parties, and the public must be able to see and hear each other during proceedings, and speak as permitted by the court. Video conference facilities must provide for confidential communications between attorney and client and security sufficient to protect the safety of all participants and observers. In interpreted proceedings, the interpreter must be located next to the defendant and the proceeding must be conducted to assure that the interpreter can hear all participants.

D. For purposes of video conference proceedings, the facsimile or scanned and printed signature(s) of the defendant, counsel, interested parties and the court will be treated as if they were an original signature. This includes all Orders on Judgments & Sentence, No Contact Orders, any Orders purporting to be a final resolution of the case, Time Pay Agreements, and other documents as the court shall determine are appropriate or necessary.

[Amended Effective September 1, 2013]
