

Muskegon County Circuit/Probate/Family Court

Judges' Use of Virtual Hearings

Effective 6/29/21

Judge	Hearing Type	Status	Misc. Notes
Judge Hicks	Criminal	In person	
	Civil	Virtual	Presume virtual hearings, judge will order in person in some cases.
	Probate	Virtual	Presume virtual hearings, judge will order in person in some cases.
	PPO	In person	
Judge Marietti	Criminal	All Virtual	Court will conduct in person hearings when required by statute or court rule and waiver unavailable.
	Civil		
	PPO		
Judge Smedley	Criminal	In person	
	Civil	Virtual	Presume virtual hearings, judge will order in person in some cases.
	Probate	Virtual	Presume virtual hearings, judge will order in person in some cases.
	PPO	In person	
Judge Hoogstra	Family	Hybrid	All hearings will be virtual, except when complex or parties will not waive in person hearing. Any hearings that require an interpreter are in person.
	PPO		
Judge Pittman	Family	Hybrid	NA and DL - As determined at pretrial/prior to hearing DO/DM - Pro Con & Motions - Virtual Evidentiary Hearings & Trials - In Person
	Probate	Hybrid	Any proceeding that requires interpreter – In Person
	PPO	In Person	
Judge Sprader	Family	Virtual	Presume virtual hearings unless judge determines in person is necessary. Masks and spacing will be required for any in person hearings.
	Probate	Virtual	
	PPO	Virtual	
Referees Spoelman, McNeill and Hylland	Family	Virtual	All hearings will be virtual, except on a case by case basis (such as party unable to do video and wants to plead; sign language interpreters involved, or any other complicating factor)

All jury trials will be in-person