

Name: Brian Kirkham

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Comment:

I oppose the Amendment of MCR 2.407. I have been conducting virtual hearing since their implementation during Covid. Litigants like the convenience of remote hearings. Remote hearings allow for witnesses and experts witnesses to appear from wherever they are located. Parties have informed me that experts witnesses are willing to appear remote that would otherwise not attend a hearing in person. I always allow parties to attend in person if they wish but rarely is anyone willing to do so.

I have conducted numerous hearings while I am attending conferences for bond reviews, search warrants, PPO and others that need an immediate hearing while I am out of county or state. Additionally, I sign all my orders and conduct hearings while on vacation.

Remote proceedings allow greater access to justice and provides transparency for the public.