

Information for Defendants Appearing for Out of Custody Virtual Dockets

Effective June 15, 2020

The below requirements must be met when appearing in person at the Blackwell-Thurman Criminal Justice Center (509 W. 11th Street, Austin, TX 78701):

- If experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, do not appear and contact your attorney immediately.
- A hand sanitizing station will be available near the entrance and must be used.
- Everyone entering the courthouse will have their temperature checked at the door prior to going through security check. Anyone with a temperature 99.6 or greater will be turned away without consequence.
- Masks are required to enter the courthouse. (One will be provided if you don't have one).
- Bring a photo ID if you have one.
- Only persons with business with the courts will be allowed in the building. Family and friends must remain outside of the building, but may view court proceedings on YouTube. [Find the correct YouTube channel here.](#)
- Everyone must follow social distancing recommendations and will maintain 6ft. spacing at all times.
- Additional hand sanitizing units are located inside the lobby and use is encouraged.

Procedures for Docket Check-in:

- Upon successful entry into the CJC, proceed through the lobby by following social distancing queues on the floor.
- At the designated area, check-in for the docket by informing the deputy of your name and showing picture identification.
- Have a seat in the designated area, socially distanced from others.
- When your name is called, you will be directed to a room set up with technology to allow participation in the virtual docket.
- The judge, your attorney, prosecution, clerk, interpreters and probation will participate virtually via Zoom.
- Technology allows for confidential conversations between you and your attorney at any time during the docket.

- Upon completion of your session, you will be directed to the fingerprint station where you will sign any required documents and submit your fingerprint.

Virtual Court Dockets minimize the risks related to the ongoing health crisis known as COVID-19. Local health experts have indicated social distancing measures may be necessary through the summer of 2021 to mitigate the spread of the virus. The goal of the virtual sessions is to allow courts to continue performing essential functions while working remotely. Travis County has been conducting virtual dockets for in-custody defendants exclusively since March 30, 2020. Beginning June 15, 2020, virtual dockets for out of custody cases will be implemented.