

District Court Procedures During COVID

With the recent increase in COVID cases, the Bucks County District Courts want to remind everyone of the following ways in which we can ALL limit the amount of people who need to come to District Court. While this is a general statement you need to contact the District Court to get their specific requirements.

Criminal Cases: If a defendant has a straight waiver, they may be able to waive the preliminary hearing by mail/email. If your client wishes to waive by mail please contact the Court. They will forward the necessary documentation which will include the waiver, the formal arraignment notice and the bail documents, if required. ALL documents need to be mailed/emailed to the District Court before the case is forwarded to the Court of Common Pleas.

Another option for a straight waiver is a video waiver using the BlueJeans App. Counsel and their client may participate by BlueJeans. Again you need to contact the Court to set up a date and time for the waiver. The documents will be sent to you prior to the hearing. ALL documents must be received before the court will forward the case to the Court of Common Pleas.

If a hearing is required, in certain circumstances, some or all parties may be able to participate by BlueJeans. Again you will have to contact the Court to determine their specific requirements.

All Other Cases: In all other cases, non-traffic, traffic, civil and Landlord/tenant, in certain circumstances, participants may participate by BlueJeans. Again, you will need to contact the court for the specifics.

The more we limit in-person hearings, the safer it is for all. If parties are required to appear in-person they must ensure that they abide by ALL of the requirements of the court.

Stay safe.