

**PROCEDURES FOR TELEPHONIC DISPOSITIONAL CONFERENCES
INVOLVING DEFENDANTS WHO ARE NOT IN CUSTODY**


In light of public health concerns arising from the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), the court is authorizing counsel to appear in court remotely by phone in lieu of appearing in-person for Dispositional Conferences involving Defendants who are not in custody.

1. This order applies to proceedings in the Cumberland County Unified Criminal Docket in which the defendant is not in custody but has had a Dispositional Conference continued as the result of COVID-19.
2. Counsel shall expect to appear remotely by phone and will have received a Google Meet link to their conference. This link is particular to each attorney on the date of each docket and will be used for all of the cases handled by that attorney. This link should not be shared with anyone else as the conferences are intended to be between the court and the attorney of record along with the assigned prosecutor.
The defendant is not required to appear remotely by phone and should not come to the courthouse in person.
3. Defense counsel are expected to confer with their client(s) in advance of the day of the scheduled proceeding. Opportunities for confidential communications between defense counsel and client(s) during the course of the Dispositional Conference may be limited.


4. Counsel for the State and Defendant shall confer in advance of the day of the scheduled proceeding, and shall exchange pertinent documents and information.
5. If it appears that there is an agreed upon disposition, the court will set the matter for a misdemeanor plea or Rule 11 on an upcoming court date at which time the parties will be required to appear in person. All in-person appearances will be in accordance with Maine CDC and United States CDC guidelines.

SO ORDERED.

Dated: May 14, 2020



Mary Gay Kennedy, Justice, Superior Court



Deborah Cashman, Judge, District Court