

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF KANSAS

Administrative Order

2021-PR-022

FILED

March 30, 2021

DOUGLAS T. SHIMA
CLERK OF APPELLATE COURTS

**Order Authorizing the Use of Two-Way Audio-Visual Communication
In Any Municipal Court Proceeding**

As the Chief Justice of the Kansas Supreme Court, I have issued multiple administrative orders authorizing the use of two-way audio-visual communication in municipal court proceedings under:

- 2020 House Substitute for Senate Bill 102, which became effective upon its publication in the Kansas Register on March 19, 2020 (39 Kan. Reg. 304), and
- the Legislature's amendments to K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 20-172 through 2020 Spec. Sess. House Bill 2016, § 24, which became effective upon its publication in the Kansas Register on June 9, 2020 (39 Kan. Reg. 755).

K.S.A. 20-172, and amendments thereto, allows me to "issue an order to authorize the use of two-way electronic audio-visual communication in any court proceeding. . ."

Effective March 30, 2021, through 2021 House Bill 2227, the Legislature again amended K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 20-172. Those amendments:

- Remove the expiration date on my statutory authority to authorize the use of two-way electronic audio-visual communication in any court proceeding; and
- Authorize the use of two-way electronic audio-visual communication in court proceedings when I determine such action is necessary to secure the health and safety of court users, staff, and judicial officers or to expeditiously resolve pending cases.

Under the authority granted to me in K.S.A. 20-172, and amendments thereto, I find the use of two-way electronic audio-visual communication is necessary to secure the health and safety of court users, staff, and judicial officers. It is also necessary to expeditiously resolve pending cases.

I order the following:

1. A municipal court may use two-way telephonic or electronic audio-visual communication in any court proceeding to the extent feasible. Two-way telephonic or electronic audio-visual communication is authorized for any proceeding to the extent permitted by the United States and Kansas Constitutions and rules relating to judicial conduct.
2. If a conflict exists between this order and a prior administrative order authorizing two-way audio-visual communication in municipal courts, this order controls.
3. This order will remain in effect until further order.

Dated this 30th day of March 2021.



MARLA LUCKERT
Chief Justice