

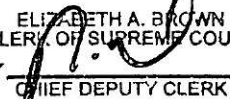


EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

Family Division
Family Courts & Services Center
601 North Pecos Road
Las Vegas, NV 89101-2408

FILED

DEC 01 2023

ELIZABETH A. BROWN
CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
BY  CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

DAVID S. GIBSON JR.
DISTRICT JUDGE
November 30, 2023

Department I
702-455-0158

Supreme Court of Nevada
201 S. Carson Street
Carson City NV 89701

ADKT 581

Re: Nevada Supreme Court's Commission to Study Best Practices for Virtual Advocacy's Report and Recommendations

Dear Justices,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to the Court's upcoming decision regarding best practices for virtual advocacy in our local court. As presiding Judge over Eighth Judicial District Court's Family Division several concerns have been brought to my attention related to Juvenile Delinquency detention and in-custody court hearings being labeled "presumptively in-person."

Most notably, the litigants we serve and our community overall would be best supported by continued virtual hearings. Parents do not need to take extra time off work to accompany their child to a court proceeding which can be overly burdensome to anyone. Many of our families come by bus or some other public transportation which is difficult under normal circumstances. Virtual appearances reduce the risk to a family's financial insecurity which can make a big impact on the overall support and well-being of the child. Further, the use of virtual hearings have minimized the potential for use of force in the courtrooms. There will likely be an increase in shackled youth, whereas in a hybrid/virtual situation that is rarely the case.

Our Department of Juvenile Justice Services (DJJS) has expressed to the court that due to staffing issues, presumptive in-person hearings would require lockdowns in our detention hall to accommodate enough staff to accompany youth to court. We are told that one possible outcome is that this will cause youth to miss vital school time. Additionally, this would create staffing hardships and youth would be locked in their cells in order to have appropriate staffing to attend in-person proceedings.

For all of these reasons, we ask that you consider making Juvenile Delinquency detention and in-custody court hearings "presumptively virtual or hybrid."


Presiding Judge David S. Gibson Jr.

23-38903