#### MEMORANDUM

TO: All Counsel/Parties

FROM: Judge Robert Panse

**RE:** CourtCall Remote Appearances

**DATE:** May, 2017

As a means to increase efficiencies and reduce costs to participants, audio and video appearances are hereby allowed for parties and counsel on non-evidentiary appearances including, Discovery Motions, Dismissal Hearings, Motions for Summary Judgments other miscellaneous motions, and Status Conferences.

### Scheduling and Notice

- 1. No remote appearance will be allowed unless it is made through CourtCall, an independent audio and video conference servicing company.
- 2. CourtCall facilitates the remote appearance of persons at hearings which have already been scheduled by regular means with 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit of Florida. CourtCall does not set or calendar hearings for the Court.
- 3. Remote appearances must be arranged by contacting **CourtCall by phone at (888) 882-6878 or online at www.courtcall.com** no later than 3:00 p.m. (EST) 1 court day preceding a hearing date. CourtCall will provide participants with a written confirmation of their remote appearance and a number to call to make the telephonic appearance.
- 4. Persons electing to make a remote appearance shall notify all parties of the same either contemporaneously with any written notice of motion or via fax or e-mail (or, if the former are unavailable, by telephone) no less than 24 hours prior to the scheduled hearing date.

### **Appearance Procedure**

- 1. It is the responsibility of the person making a remote appearance to access the conference no later than five (5) minutes prior to any scheduled hearing(s).
- 2. Persons appearing telephonically shall state his or her name for the record each time he or she speaks and shall participate in the appearance with the same degree of courtesy and courtroom etiquette as is required for a personal appearance.
- 3. To ensure the quality of the record, the use of car phones, cellular phones, speakerphones, public telephone booths, or phones in other public places is prohibited.
- 4. If a person schedules a remote appearance and then fails to respond when the matter is called, the Court may pass the matter or may treat the failure to respond as a failure to appear. Scheduling simultaneous remote appearances in multiple courts does not excuse a failure to appear. The Court will attempt to reasonably accommodate persons attempting to appear before the Court in multiple courtrooms.

# Costs

1. CourtCall is an independent service provider. By using the services of CourtCall, individuals are knowingly entering into a service agreement and are subject to follow any additional terms and conditions imposed by CourtCall and shall be solely responsible for any costs or other expenses incurred for those services provided. Under no circumstance shall the Court bear any costs for any remote appearance. CourtCall charges each participant a fee of \$45.00 for each telephonic appearance. There are no subscription fees.

# Rejections, Refunds, and Suspension of Privileges

- 1. The fact that a remote appearance is scheduled with CourtCall shall not be construed as a determination that the remote appearance is permitted by the Court. Parties and counsel are solely responsible for compliance with the Court's rules and procedures for remote appearances. The Court reserves the right, at any time, to reject any remote appearance in violation with this rule or as otherwise necessary for the administration of justice. When the Court rejects a remote appearance, it shall order a refund of the deposited remote appearances fees and send notice of the same to CourtCall, LLC.
- 2. The Court shall also reserve the right to halt any remote appearance on any matter and order the attorneys to personally appear at a later date and time, in which case no refund is permitted.
- The Court reserves the right and sole discretion to suspend any person's ability to appear remotely using CourtCall's services.

For information about CourtCall please call CourtCall, not the participating Courtroom!!