

Process for Remote Essential Hearings through Lifesize

The Bell County District Courts will be utilizing Lifesize for essential hearings conducted remotely. If you do not already have Lifesize on the device you will use to appear at hearings, please do so by following the instructions on the attached pdf.

The District Courts will provide a stream link for each hearing that is accessible to the public. That link can be found on the District Court's Website at

https://www.bellcountytexas.com/county_government/district_courts/index.php.

The links will be updated each evening with the stream for the next day's dockets.

Hearings on Felony Cases

The District Attorney's Office will work with the defense attorneys in order to get the paperwork signed by everyone prior to the scheduling of the plea. The District Attorney's Office will e-file the signed plea paperwork with the District Clerk's Office for forwarding to the District Court Coordinators. The Court Coordinators will then assign a time for the plea and send invitations by e-mail to the participants of the hearing.

The Court requires that the attorneys calculate the jail time credit for the cases through the date the plea paperwork is signed. The Court will calculate the additional days through the day of sentencing. In most cases the filing of the original Trial Court Certificate and/or Waiver of Appeal at the time of the plea or sentencing is helpful. However, we understand in some case there may be a need to file after the hearing.

Exhibits

Please e-mail exhibits to the District Court Coordinator the day before your scheduled hearing with the following information in the subject line:

**EXHIBIT – Case Number – Case Style – Court Date and Time
Contains HIPPA or Confidential Information (if applicable)**