

VAN BUREN COUNTY – ALL COURT POLICY		
SUBJECT: LIVE STREAMING COURT PROCEEDINGS	SECTION: General	DATE: 5/7/2020
PREPARED BY: Frank Hardester	NUMBER: VBC-0115 –	SUPERSEDES: n/a

Renumbered to "Policy 4.006" on 9/16/20

REFERENCES:

- [Administrative Order 1989-1](#)
- [MCR 6.007](#)
- [MCR 8.115](#)
- [MJI / JIS Zoom and Virtual courtroom Resource Center](#)
- [Policy - VBC-0100 video recordings of court proceedings](#)

BACKGROUND: In late 2019, the court began exploring the use of live streaming in order to provide more ways for the public to view court proceedings. During the COVID-19 health crisis, the Governor entered orders mandating social distancing and the Michigan Supreme Court encouraged the same in its companion orders for the courts. Court buildings were closed but court services were not, and courts were advised to use good faith efforts to conduct proceedings remotely whenever possible. Live streaming is a tool to allow the public access to those proceedings in real time without having to attend court. The pilot project for live streaming in courtroom one began during this timeframe, March 30, 2020. Livestreaming then expanded to other courtrooms, at the discretion of the presiding judicial officer. This policy describes how the court will use live streaming during public court proceedings.

POLICY STATEMENT:

- A. Pursuant to [MCR 8.115](#), Van Buren courts adopt this policy to use live streaming in all courtrooms and hearing rooms at the discretion of the assigned judicial officer.
- B. Confidential or non-public hearings will not be live streamed.
- C. This policy does not modify or supersede the guidelines for media coverage of court proceedings set forth in [Administrative Order 1989-1](#).

PROCEDURES:

- A. A YouTube channel has been procured for live streaming.
 1. The court will use a "Watermark" to brand videos that are on YouTube.
 2. The court will have one channel for each courtroom / hearing room.
- B. Upon request from the assigned hearing officer, the court clerk will set up the live streaming using court technology and following the procedures listed in VBC Manual TEC-775.
- C. Case parties will be alerted regarding the use of live streaming via the virtual waiting room message, courthouse signage and postings on the Van Buren County Court website's [case information page](#) and [virtual court information page](#).
- D. The court will post a link to view live proceedings on its website and social media as needed.
- E. Live streamed files will remain on the court's YouTube channel for 1 week or less, at the discretion of the hearing officer.
- F. Court users may request official video files or transcripts using the methods outlined in court policy [VBC-0100](#).

- G. The trial court administrator or his/her designee will review all court YouTube channels weekly and remove any videos that have reached/exceeded their one-week expiration date.

FORMS:

VBC Manual TEC-772 – How to Use Zoom Live Stream

VBC Manual TEC-775 – How to Use YouTube Live Stream

APPROVAL:

Effective Date: 5/11/2020

Date: 5/8/2020



Kathleen M. Brickley – Chief Judge