

NOTICE REGARDING REQUESTS FOR TELEPHONIC APPEARANCE

Pursuant to Rule 2.530(b), Florida Rules of Judicial Administration, the judge may, upon the court's own motion or upon the written request of a party, direct that the telephone be used for a motion hearing, pretrial conference, or a status conference.

Rule 2.530(c), Florida Rules of Judicial Administration, requires the requesting party make a written request with notice to all other parties. Reasonable notice must be provided to all parties so that the judge will be able to make an appropriate and timely decision after considering a timely objection.

If counsel (a member of the Florida Bar) is willing to certify in writing that all other parties have been consulted and have no objection **AND** counsel is willing to certify that the hearing will not exceed 15 minutes, a Notice of Hearing may be submitted without a separate motion. The Notice of Hearing must contain the written certifications. A proposed Order is not required.

The Notice of Hearing should include instructional language that substantially states: "All parties appearing by telephone must be present before a notary public to administer the oath and to verify identification. Please call (863) 402-6998 at the designated time shown on your notice."

If there is no agreement **OR** if the hearing exceeds 15 minutes, the written request must be in the form of a separate Motion. A copy of the motion must be provided to all opposing counsel and/or pro se opposing party. The motion must set forth that opposing counsel or pro se party should provide any objection to the request in writing to the Court within ten (10) days. A proposed Order is required.

In the event the Motion is granted, the requesting party is responsible for placing the call at the time permitted. In the event the requesting party does not telephone, the non-appearance will be treated the same as if the party had failed to appear in person.