

Chambers Policies Regarding Video and Telephone Conferencing in Criminal Cases

U.S. Magistrate Judge John E. Martin has adopted the following policies for his chambers and Courtroom in the Hammond Division of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Indiana:

- (1) In criminal cases, all initial appearance hearings shall be conducted by video-teleconference (VTC) with the consent of individual defendants. Fed. R. Crim. P. 5(f).
- (2) Likewise, arraignment hearings may be conducted by video-teleconference with consent of individual defendants. Fed. R. Crim P. 10(c).
- (3) With respect to preliminary examination and detention hearings, the parties are directed to confer and advise the Court if the defendant is stipulating to the existence of probable cause and/or detention (thereby waiving the need for an in-person hearing), or whether either party is seeking a continuance of the hearing. A defendant who is stipulating to the existence of probable cause or detention should, before the date of the hearing, notify chambers either orally (through counsel) or in writing that the defendant is agreeing to probable cause, detention, or both, and is waiving the need for a hearing on those matters.
- (4) Where a defendant does not stipulate to detention, an in-person hearing will be scheduled.