

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW
UNITED STATES IMMIGRATION COURT
OTAY MESA, CALIFORNIA**

**STANDING ORDER: TELEPHONIC APPEARANCES IN CASES BEFORE THE OTAY
MESA IMMIGRATION COURT DUE TO COVID-19**

Effective immediately and until rescinded by the Court, any attorney for any party may appear telephonically in cases before the Otay Mesa Immigration Court without prior approval and without filing a motion in advance.

Attorneys who wish to appear telephonically must contact court staff in advance of the hearing and provide the best phone number at which to be reached. If the Court is unable to reach counsel by telephone for the hearing, counsel will thereafter be required to appear in-person at any rescheduled hearing.

Any documents to be considered by the Court during the hearing must be filed with the Court, and a copy received by opposing counsel or *pro se* respondent, at least two business days prior to the hearing. The Otay Mesa Immigration Court accepts electronic filing of documents in cases before it, and all parties are strongly encouraged to file any and all documents electronically. No additional filing will be accepted at the hearing if counsel does not appear in person, and the decision of the Court will be based on the documents in the record at the close of the hearing. Any party appearing telephonically waives the right to object to the admissibility of any document offered in Court on the sole basis that they are unable to examine the document.

So ordered.

March 30, 2020
Date


Rico J. Bartolomei
Assistant Chief Immigration Judge
Otay Mesa Immigration Court