

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW
UNITED STATES IMMIGRATION COURT
IMPERIAL, CALIFORNIA

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

Effective immediately and until rescinded by the Court, any attorney or qualified representative for any party scheduled for master calendar, bonds, merits, or reasonable/credible fear hearings before the Imperial Immigration Court may appear telephonically in cases before the Imperial 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.

The Parties are encouraged to confer and reach stipulations as to fact/legal issues to facilitate the prompt disposition of cases. This is particularly important for bond determination hearings and the parties are encouraged to confer and reach agreement on the eligibility and the amount of bond. Further, parties should submit affidavits or written statements in lieu of witnesses appearing.

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 Imperial 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.

April 2, 2020
Date


Rico J. Bartolomei
Assistant Chief Immigration Judge
Imperial Immigration Court