

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE OCAD 2007-01

IN RE: FIRST APPEARANCE HEARINGS

WHEREAS, to fully comply with *Florida Rule of Criminal Procedure* 3.130 and to provide for an efficient and expedient procedure for weekday first appearance hearings in criminal cases, the following provisions are effective immediately upon the signing of this Directive:

Weekday first appearance hearings are to be conducted by video teleconferencing at the Okaloosa County Courthouse Annex in Shalimar, Florida in the video teleconferencing room; and at the Okaloosa County Courthouse in Crestview, Florida from the chambers of the County Judge.

The State Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, and the Okaloosa County Clerk of Court shall provide sufficient personnel to accomplish the necessary duties of the prosecuting attorney, defense counsel, and the clerk for weekday first appearance hearings. The prosecuting attorney and clerk shall be physically present with the Judge at the weekday first appearance hearings. Defense counsel from the Public Defender's Office shall appear by video teleconferencing with the Defendant.

All weekday first appearance hearings shall be held at 11:00 a.m. unless otherwise noticed by the Court at least 24 hours in advance, and shall be recorded by audiotape. The Official Court Reporters for Okaloosa County, Florida shall maintain custody of the audiotapes.

The Stat Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, and the Okaloosa County Clerk of Court are excused from attending weekend and holiday first appearance hearing. Schedules for the weekend and holiday first appearance hearings shall be given t least 48 hours prior to the weekend or holiday.

DONE AND ORDERED in Shalimar, Okaloosa County, Florida, this 4th day of January, 2007

Signed by: Robert Barron, Administrative Judge