

# **Zoom Trials**

Presented by Judge James Petersen, Nolensville Municipal Court

 Each citation issued to a defendant includes an information section explaining how to satisfy the citation prior to the due date.

 To request a trial, defendants are instructed to email the clerk's office.

#### TRAFFIC CITATION INFORMATION

The court date on your citation is a DUE DATE, not a court date. Please read the following options to satisfy your citation before the date listed on your citation. Failure to satisfy your citation by the due date will result in a default judgment which may increase the amount owed and may result in suspension of driving privileges.

#### Moving Violations:

Plead Guilty: Apph for Traffic School Prior to Court Date: If you have no previous moving violations within the last 3 years and have not attended a defensive driving school within the past 3 years, you are eligible for traffic school. You may email the clerk at court@nolensvilletn.go to register for an online 4-hour defensive driving class. This will keep the violation from being reported to your driving record. The cost of the citation typically reduces to \$80, and the cost of the class is bypically \$50. (NOTE: CDL holders are not eligible for traffic school.)

<u>Plead Guilty: Pay Citation Prior to Court Date:</u> If you are not eligible or do not wish to complete a defensive driving class, you may pay the citation in full before the court date listed on the bottom of the citation. Below are the payment ontions:

Online: www.municipalonlinepayments.com/nolensvilletn Phone: (844) 214-6126

Mail: 7218 Nolensville Rd. Nolensville, TN 37135

Plead Not Guilty: Request a Trial: Court dates are for NOT GUILTY pleas. If you wish to plead not guilty and have a trial, please email the clerk's office at court@nolensvilletn.gov. Trials are being conducted remotely via Zoom at this time.

#### Non-Moving Violations:

If you received a citation for a non-moving violation that you have fixed or you had proof of insurance at the time of the stop, you may email proof to the clerk's office at court@nolensvilletn.gov for the violation to be dismissed at no cost.

If you are unable to provide proof that the violation has been fixed or you did not have insurance at the time of the stop, you may pay the citation in full before the court date listed at the bottom of your citation. Below are the payment options:

Online: www.municipalonlinepayments.com/nolensvilletn

Phone: (844) 214-6126

il: 7218 Nolensville Rd. Nolensville, TN 37135

Non-moving violations include: Light Law, DL Expired, DL Address, Registration violations, Window Tint, Insurance \*Insurance must be effective at the time of stop for an insurance violation to be dismissed.

#### If you have any questions, please contact the court clerk:

 Vivianne Conn
 Office Hours

 Phone:
 (615) 776-6684
 Monday-Friday

 Fax:
 (615) 776-3631
 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Email: court@nolensvilletn.gov

Nolensville Municipal Court address and payment methods:

Address: Online Payments\*:

7218 Nolensville Road

www.municipalonlinepayments.com/nolensvilletn

Nolensville,TN 37135

Telephone Payments\*:

www.nolensvilletn.gov/court

(844) 214-6126

\*There are additional fees for using these services

- Once the clerk receives the request for a trial, the clerk will verify officer availability and determine a date to schedule a zoom trial.
- An email is sent to all parties with the Zoom meeting ID and instructions for joining Zoom.
- The Zoom meeting ID may be shared with witnesses or any person wishing to attend/observe the trial.

#### DEFENDANT,

The Zoom trial for Nolensville citation E000xxxx is scheduled for Thursday, Month Day, Year at 9:00 am. The zoom link is below. There will be a waiting room when you join, I will add you to the meeting as soon as the Judge is ready for your case. Please be in the waiting room and ready by 9:00 am to avoid a Failure to Appear charge. Be prepared to turn on video and unmute yourself when you are added to the meeting. Please join the Zoom meeting using the same name as printed on the citation. If you need assistance with Zoom, please contact the derk before the trial date.

Please feel free to call or email if you have any questions.

Nolensville Court is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Court Trials

Time: Month Day, Year 09:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

#### Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83143303191

Meeting ID: 831 4330 3191 One tap mobile

+13017158592,,83143303191# US (Washington DC)

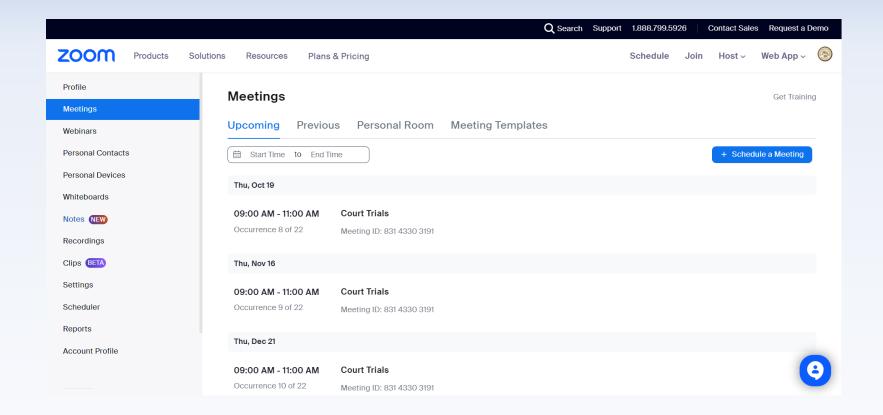
+13126266799,,83143303191# US (Chicago)

#### Dial by your location

- +1 30 1 715 859 2 US (Washington DC)
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1646 558 8656 US (New York)
- +1 253 215 878 2 US (Tacoma)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
- +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 831 4330 3191

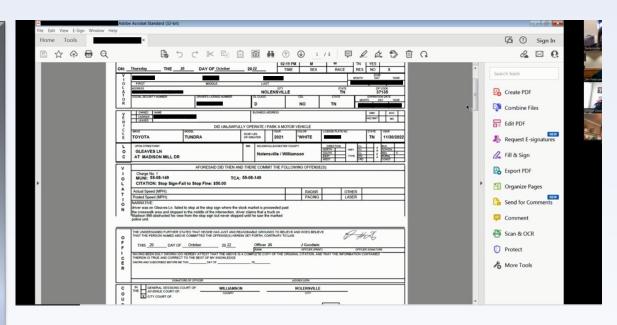
Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kct89659VL



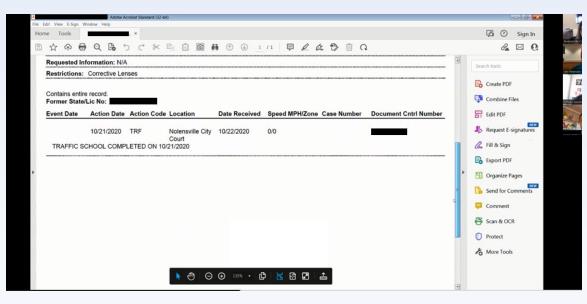
One zoom meeting ID with multiple occurrences makes it easier to join the meeting. There is less of a chance of joining the wrong meeting or using the wrong meeting ID.

The morning of court, the Zoom meeting is opened at least half an hour before court is scheduled to start. All participants are in a waiting room when they join the meeting. The clerk communicates with parties in the waiting room as needed and adds parties to the Zoom meeting as the Judge is ready for their case.

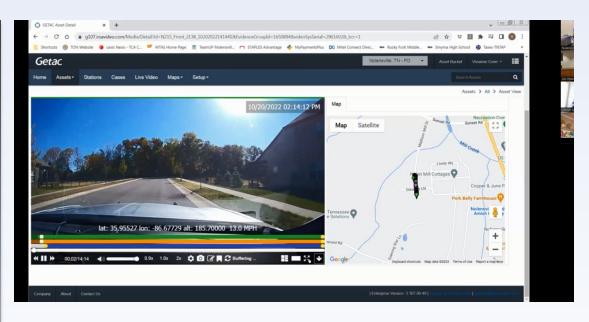




Screenshot from a Zoom trial-sharing copy of a citation



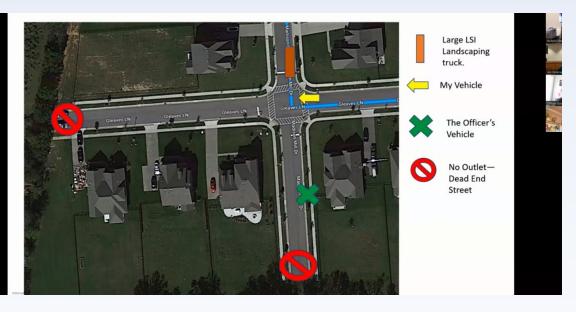
Screenshot from a Zoom trial-sharing copy driving record



Screenshot from a Zoom trial-sharing dash cam video



Screenshot from a Zoom trial-sharing dash cam video



Screenshot from a Zoom trial-defendant sharing evidence

All parties have the capability to screen share if they need to present any proof.







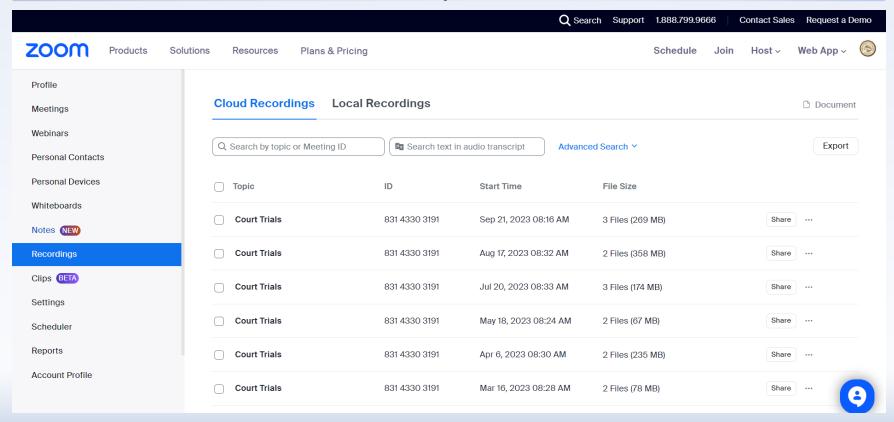
#### Comments made by the officer:

- "You were not going to stop until you saw me sitting there."
- · "Do you come this way often?"
- (When asked if I could get out of my car to take a picture)..."when we are done you can take a picture of anything you like."

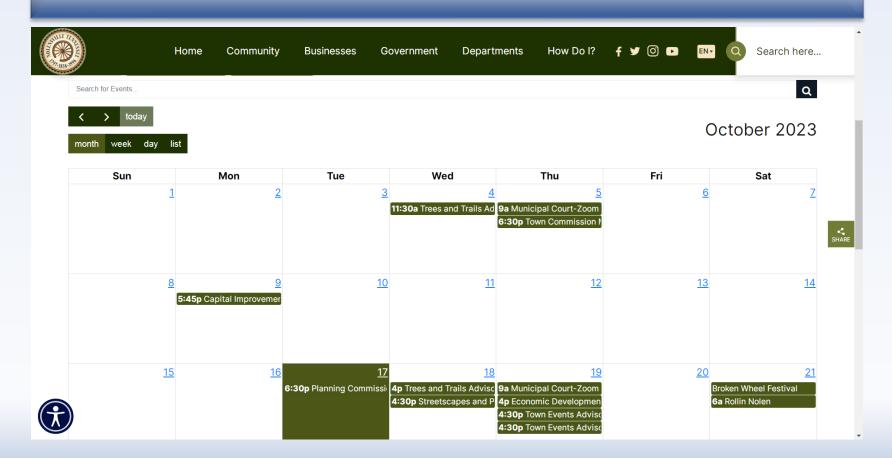
Internal Use - Confidential

Screenshot from a Zoom trial-defendant sharing evidence

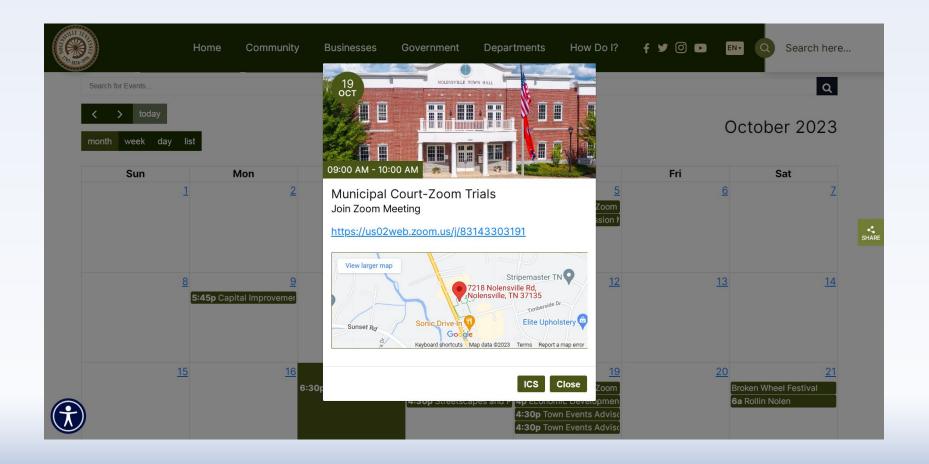
- Zoom saves the recording of all trials to the cloud and emails a link once the meeting is concluded.
- Zoom emails a link of the zoom trial for easy future access.



Zoom trials are open to the public. The Zoom meeting information is posted to the town's website on the calendar. A link to the Zoom meeting is provided for anyone to join.



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### **Accommodations**

- Accommodations include setting up a laptop or iPad for defendants to use at Town Hall
  that may not be comfortable operating Zoom on their own or who do not have access to
  a device or internet access. The Judge is still remote over Zoom, the defendant is at Town
  Hall with the clerk.
- Practice Zoom sessions can be set up with the clerk for defendants who want to practice logging in and turning on video/sound before the trial date.
- Judge Petersen will still conduct in person trials when requested.

## Cons to Zoom Trials

- \*Connecting to audio may take a try or two for some parties.
- \*Participants must name themselves on Zoom when they join the meeting. (There may be several people in the waiting room all named iPhone.)

## Pros to Zoom Trials

- Easier to schedule-more flexibility with scheduling since drive time and Town Hall usage availability is not a concern
- Courtroom security
- Less staff needed for setting up the courtroom, recording audio/video and directing flow of traffic in the courtroom
- Parking restraints are not a concern
- Less time for defendants to miss work for court
- Defendants are not required to find childcare so they can attend court
- Less anxiety for some defendants
- Convenient for out of state drivers that are unable to travel back to TN
- Night shift officers can join from home
- Attorneys and Interpreters can join from anywhere-helps with availability
- Inclement weather doesn't cancel court.
- Eliminates most of the typical reasons for defendant FTAs.

# Zoom from the Officers' perspective

## Nolensville Assistant Police Chief, Michael Terns

# Zoom from Town Management's perspective

Nolensville Town Manager, Victor Lay

# **AOC Instructions for Initial Setup & Use**

https://www.tncourts.gov/sites/default/files/docs/online court zoom guide.pdf



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