

Remote Participation Policy

Adopted Pursuant to Title 1 M.R.S.A. § 403-B

Purpose

It is the policy of the County Corrections Professional Standards Council [Council], as established in “Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 6-D,” to allow the Council and the general public to participate in all public meetings as defined by Title 1 M.R.S.A. § 403-B by remote means including but not limited to telephonic and video conferencing capabilities.

Conditions and Requirements

Members of the Council’s public body are expected to be physically present for public proceedings except when being physically present is neither reasonable nor practicable. Such circumstances include:

1. The existence of an emergency or urgent issue that requires the public body to meet by remote methods;
2. Illness, other physical condition or temporary absence from the jurisdiction of the body that causes a member of the body to face significant difficulties traveling to and attending in person at the location in the notice provided by Title 1 M.R.S.A. § 406;
3. The area of the public body’s jurisdiction includes geographic characteristics that impede or slow travel;
4. Any member of the Council who participates in a Council proceeding by remote methods is considered present for purposes of a quorum and voting;
5. All votes taken during a public proceeding using remote methods must be taken by roll call vote that can be seen and heard if using video technology,

and heard if using only audio technology, by other members of the Council and the public;

6. All documents and other written materials considered by the Council will be made available electronically (website) or otherwise to the public who attend by remote methods to the same extent customarily available to members of the public who attend the proceedings in person; and
7. All notices of proceedings will be posted on the MCCA & MSA website. The notice will include the means by which members of the public may access the proceeding using remote methods. The notice will also identify where the Council members will be meeting in person and this location will be available for members of the public to attend in person as well.

Effective Date

The policy is effective on the date it is adopted following a public hearing held on September 14 at The Senator Inn, Augusta, Maine. It may be amended by the County Corrections Professional Standards Council following the provisions on Title 1 M.R.S.A. § 403-B.

Signatures of the County Corrections Professional Standards Council members: