



PRESSRELEASE

City of Coalinga · 155 W. Durian Ave · Coalinga, CA 93210 · (559) 935-1533 · Fax: (559) 935-0798
Website: www.coalinga.com
E-mail: hr@coalinga.com

Marissa Chavez
Human Resources Director

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Remote Video Proceedings (RVP)

About RVP

In a collaborative project with the Fresno Superior Court, the City of Coalinga is starting Remote Video Proceedings (RVP). This free service is a convenience for motorists cited for traffic violations outside the Fresno-Clovis area and who must travel 15 miles or more from where their citations were issued to appear in traffic court in downtown Fresno. Starting Wednesday, April 3, 2013, instead of going to Fresno, these defendants may elect to appear in traffic court by videoconference from the City of Coalinga. If not elected, defendants may still appear in person at the M Street Courthouse located at 2317 Tuolumne Street in Fresno.

How RVP Works

The City of Coalinga will hold remote video proceedings every Wednesday morning beginning on April 3, 2013. The RVP site will be the old courthouse, located at 160 W. Elm Street in Coalinga, equipped with a wide-screen camera, a large television monitor, and microphones. We will connect by videoconference to a courtroom in the M Street Courthouse in Fresno with the same equipment. Everyone, including defendants and the judge, will be able to see, hear, and speak to each other through this video connection.

On RVP days, the court will have an employee in Coalinga to conduct roll call as well as gather documents from defendants and law enforcement officers. After that, the court will proceed as in a traditional traffic hearing, only it will be held via videoconference. If defendants or law enforcement officers have exhibits that were not submitted earlier, the court employee will scan/email or fax the documents immediately to the judge. The Fresno Superior Court will know in advance if an

interpreter is needed and will ensure that one is present in Coalinga prior to the start of RVP.

Requesting a Remote Appearance

To request arraignment and trial on the same day, defendants file a *Notice and Waiver of Rights and Request for Remote Video Arraignment and Trial* (form TR-505).

To request RVP for arraignment or trial on separate days, defendants file a *Notice and Waiver of Rights and Request for Remote Video Proceedings* (form TR-510).

Witness and Citing Officer Appearances

Witnesses testifying in support of defendants must appear at the same location as those defendants.

In cases in which defendants have chosen to appear remotely, citing officers may attend court in the same location as the defendants or they can request to appear in the Fresno courtroom by submitting form FTR-70 after receiving their subpoenas. In those cases, witnesses for the citing officer may appear at either location.