

U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT, DISTRICT OF MAINE

**TELEPHONIC PARTICIPATION IN HEARINGS
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

Updated July, 2017

1. Do I have to use CourtCall?

You have the option of personally appearing in Court for hearings of the Bankruptcy Court for the District of Maine. **However, effective for hearings on and after August 21, 2007, you must use CourtCall if you want to appear telephonically in a regularly scheduled hearing.**

2. If the Court is making me use CourtCall, why do I have to pay for the service?

The Court is not making any party use CourtCall. CourtCall's services are being offered as a benefit to parties that would like to appear for Court hearings telephonically.

3. What are the charges for CourtCall's services?

The initial charge per participant for a CourtCall appearance is \$30.00 (0-45 minutes) and will be supplemented by \$7.00 for every additional 15 minute increment or portion thereof. For example, a 46 minute call would cost a total of \$37.00 as would a 60 minute call. Participants are charged for the entire time they are on with CourtCall, not just the time they are speaking with the Judge. **There are no set up fees or cancellation fees. You may open an account with CourtCall or pay by check or by credit card. If you prefer, you may also schedule your appearance with CourtCall online.**

4. Do I have to obtain permission from the court or other interested/objecting parties to use CourtCall to make an appearance?

Generally, no. Any party may appear telephonically for routine matters on regularly scheduled Court hearing days. The exceptions can be found in the Court's [*Administrative Procedures for Telephonic Participation in Hearings*](#).

5. What do I have to do to use CourtCall?

Please see the [Telephonic Appearance Vendor Information](#).

6. What is the process for signing up to appear telephonically for a hearing? Is it different for Bangor? Augusta? Portland?

With the exception of specially set matters, the Bankruptcy Court no longer conducts hearings in Augusta. Most "Augusta" hearings are scheduled for Bangor, and parties will be able to participate telephonically through CourtCall.

7. What happens if the matter I am signed up to appear in is taken off the Court's agenda (whether because it is canceled or because an order is signed prior to the hearing)?

As is currently the case with both Judge Cary and Judge Fagone, matters set for hearing are regularly reviewed for substance and objections. When there are no objections, and the movant is entitled to the relief sought, motions may be acted on and removed from the hearing agendas. This process will continue in the same manner. Once you are aware that your matter has been taken off the hearing calendar, please contact CourtCall to let them know you will not be appearing by telephone. **There is no charge from CourtCall unless you actually participate in a telephonic appearance.**

8. Is there a limit to the number of people that can appear on a call?

There is no limit to the number of parties that can appear telephonically for a given hearing/agenda.

9. Can Attorneys/parties patch/conference other parties in on a CourtCall Appearance through their own phone?

No. To assure optimal sound quality, each participant must make their own arrangements with CourtCall.

10. Can I call from my cell phone?

No. You must receive special permission from the courtroom deputy, who will consult with Chambers, if you request an exception to call from a cell phone for a specific hearing.

11. I work for a government agency. Does my agency have to pay for this service?

Yes. CourtCall is an unrelated, independent vendor. If you choose to take advantage of their services, you (or your agency) must pay them.

12. Does the moving party have to provide CourtCall with the phone numbers of all parties that will be appearing at the hearing?

No. Each attorney who wants to appear telephonically is responsible for contacting CourtCall.