

## **Society Seneschal's Corpora interpretation regarding virtual events, upheld by the Board July 24, 2022**

During the pandemic, online events and courts, little-known previously, became the norm as in-person events were disallowed or strictly limited. During that time, my predecessor granted a variance allowing such virtual events and courts to be held without prior publication in the kingdom newsletter; they could be publicized via social media. That variance was ended by me on August 31, 2021 as in-person events returned; I reinstated it temporarily in January 2022 due to a number of kingdoms suddenly shutting down in-person events because of the winter COVID surge. That second variance was allowed to expire March 31, 2022. I have been asked if virtual events and courts are still allowed, and if so, what the requirements are to hold them.

My interpretation is that virtual events are still events. As such, they are permitted if a kingdom or branch wants to hold them, and if the royalty wishes to hold a virtual court, they may do so. However, Corpora II.C, Business Requiring Prior Announcement, still applies to virtual courts or events—formal actions and announcements may only occur at such events if a full announcement including date, time and place has been published in advance in the kingdom newsletter. In lieu of “place”, such an announcement should include instructions for how to access the virtual court or event. The announcement should also state the sponsoring entity: the kingdom, principality, or local branch, and there needs to be a designated event coordinator.

It is possible that, in the event of another COVID surge or other circumstance requiring a temporary cessation of in-person events in a number of kingdoms, a temporary variance might once more be granted, but the default is that for “business requiring prior announcement” as defined in Corpora II.C to occur at an online event or court, the provisions of Corpora II.C apply.