



OFFICE OF
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**COMMISSIONER AND CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE BEDDOE OF
THE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE TRIALS AND HEARINGS (OATH)
ANNOUNCES ONLINE HEARINGS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE OATH
HEALTH TRIBUNAL**

The OATH Health Tribunal makes it more convenient to contest violations issued by the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. The new “One-Click” hearing option joins the Hearing by Phone program as the latest innovative way to have a hearing without having to come to the OATH Health Tribunal in person.

Commissioner and Chief Administrative Law Judge, Suzanne Beddoe, today announced the launch of “One-Click Hearings” at the OATH Health Tribunal, providing business and restaurant owners who receive violations from the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), the ability to have their OATH Health Tribunal hearings online, rather than having to attend a hearing in person. One-Click Hearings gives recipients of tickets the option to submit a defense to a judge through the OATH website.

A [One-Click Hearing](#) is an electronic form that allows the users to enter a written defense and submit supporting materials such as photos or other documents which they would like the judge to consider when deciding their case. Online hearings are the newest alternative to in-person hearings at the [OATH Health Tribunal](#); last year the OATH Health Tribunal introduced Hearings by Phone, which allows recipients of DOHMH violations the option of giving their testimony to a judge over the phone.

“We understand that coming to an in-person hearing could cost restaurant and other small business owners time and money, so we are proactively addressing this concern by exploring ways to make the hearing process more accessible and convenient by using technology and other innovations,” said Commissioner Beddoe. “One-Click Hearings and Hearings by Phone provide easy-to-use options for anyone who wants their day in court.”

The Health Tribunal was formerly part of the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene but was consolidated into the Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings [last July](#), making judges independent of the City agency that issues the violations. OATH’s goal is to provide access to fair and timely hearings to anyone who wants to contest charges issued by other City agencies. Simple alternatives to in-person hearings are one way that OATH is fulfilling this mission at its Health Tribunal. OATH will also explore ways to make the Health Tribunal a more accessible and user-friendly

court for restaurant owners who prefer to come to hearings in person. Last year, OATH opened the first Health Tribunal hearing office outside of Manhattan, on [Staten Island](#), and is currently working on expanding the Tribunal to all outer boroughs.

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