



# Guide to Remote Viewing of Hearings by Complainants and Victims

## Introduction

1. From 2 March 2025, complainants and victims will be entitled to view criminal trials or sentencing remotely under the Court (Remote Participation) Amendment Act 2024.
2. Complainants, victims, and their support persons can observe trials or sentencing remotely if:
  - a. The required technology, for example a streaming capable Virtual Meeting Room (VMR), is available.
  - b. A written notice is submitted by a complainant or victim within a reasonable time before the hearing or sentencing is to take place.
  - c. The hearing is open to the public, and the complainant or victim would have the right to attend in person.
  - d. The judge does not decide otherwise.

## How to give notice

3. You can submit your notice through a Court Victim Advisor (CVA) or directly to the court if no CVA is assigned. Your written notice should include:
  - a. Your name and the name(s) of any support person(s) or family members who will be watching with you (if any).
  - b. Your contact details, such as email and phone number.
  - c. Information about the case, like the trial or sentencing date and time.
  - d. A confirmation that you, along with any support person watching with you, agree to comply with the court's conditions for remote observation.

You can use this [form](#) as your notice to the court.

## Remote viewing process

4. Once your notice is received, the court will check if the required technology is available to allow remote observation. This includes:
  - a. **Streaming VMR.** The Court Registrar will check to see if a streaming link is available. Since these links are limited, the remote viewing can only proceed if a link is available.
  - b. **Courtroom setup.** The Court Registrar will also make sure the hearing is scheduled in a courtroom that has Video Conferencing (VC) technology.
5. If you are watching remotely, the Court Registrar will send you the streaming VMR link and passcode.

## Connecting remotely to a hearing

6. To view a hearing remotely, please ensure you have the following:
  - a. A device with a compatible browser (e.g., Google Chrome or Microsoft Edge).
  - b. A stable internet connection capable of supporting video streaming.

Technical support is not provided by court staff. Observers are advised to test their setup prior to the hearing.

For detailed instructions on how to connect to a hearing, refer to the [Quick Reference Guide](#).

## Important information if you are viewing remotely

7. If you are viewing the trial or sentencing remotely, you must comply with the conditions set out below. The purpose of these conditions is to preserve the integrity of the Court process and to protect the privacy of those involved in the proceedings.
8. The link we give you is just for your own use—please do not share it. If you plan to watch with a support person, let the court know when you file your notice. A support person watching with you must also follow the conditions of remote viewing.
9. The conditions are:
  - a. You must not record the screen (video) or audio and must not take still photographs. This includes a prohibition on downloading or capturing, by any means, sounds or images from the video feed, whether by software or digital devices, including cell phones, and a prohibition on electronic sharing of any content from the hearing.

- b. You must not publish any report or details of the hearing on any social media platform while it is in progress, (or after the hearing, if there are any suppression orders made about what can and cannot be published about the hearing after it has finished. See also subparagraph (c) below).
  - c. You must not take notes of the hearing in any form.
  - d. You must comply with Court suppression orders. This includes a prohibition on publishing information on social media at any time.
10. Failure to comply with the conditions set out in paragraph nine above may be treated as a breach of a court order.

*This guide is subject to revision.*