



The Provincial Court of Saskatchewan

PRACTICE DIRECTIVE IV

Appearance of Witnesses via Telephone or Video

1. Counsel or a self-represented accused may apply pursuant to sections 714.1, 714.2, 714.3, or 714.4 of the Criminal Code to tender a witness' evidence by means of technology that permits the witness to testify in the virtual presence of the parties and the Court, or by means of a telephone, or other technology, that permits the parties and the Court to hear and examine the witness.
2. This application shall be made in writing 14 days before the proceeding in question. A copy of the written application shall be provided to the trial judge and to all parties to the proceeding.
3. The application shall include an explanation of:
 - why it is necessary to receive a witness' evidence in this fashion;
 - whether it is a consent or contested application;
 - the cost to the witness of personally attending the court proceeding;
 - the distance the witness must travel; and
 - the nature of the anticipated evidence.
4. The Court shall set a date for oral submissions on the application.
5. The party requesting to tender evidence by means of video or audio link shall ensure that:
 - the witness is on a clear land line (no mobile phones);
 - the witness' location is conducive to both binding their conscience and providing evidence, including being quiet and free from distraction; and
 - the witness is available at the specified time for testifying.