



The Provincial Court of Saskatchewan

PRACTICE DIRECTIVE IV Appearance of Witnesses by Audioconference or Videoconference

1. A witness shall appear personally to testify unless the Court orders otherwise. Following receipt of an application consistent with the dictates of the *Criminal Code* and this Practice Directive, the Court may order remote testimony through videoconference or audioconference: ss. 2, 715.21. Application may be made under s. 714.1, s. 714.2 or 714.3.
2. Application shall be made in writing 14 days before the proceeding in question. A copy of the written application shall be provided to the Court and to all parties to the proceeding. While the application need not be before the trial judge, this will be the case unless otherwise ordered by the Court.
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. If the Court grants the application, on the date the evidence is to be heard the applicant shall ensure that:
 - the applied technology provides clear, uninterrupted communication between the courtroom and the remote location;
 - a mobile phone is not used;
 - 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.