



PROVINCIAL COURT
OF SASKATCHEWAN

CRIMINAL PRACTICE DIRECTIVE 4

APPEARANCE OF WITNESSES BY AUDIOCONFERENCE OR VIDEOCONFERENCE

Effective: October 1, 2026

Purpose

This Practice Directive sets out the procedure for applications to allow a witness to testify by audioconference or videoconference in the Provincial Court of Saskatchewan.

Application

This Practice Directive applies to all criminal proceedings before the Provincial Court of Saskatchewan.

Directives

1. Witnesses shall attend court and testify in person unless the Court orders otherwise.
2. The Court may consider remote testimony through videoconference or audioconference following the receipt of application that meets the requirements of this Practice Directive.
3. An application must be made in writing and submitted at least 30 days before the scheduled proceeding. With leave, the Court may consider applications within 30 days of the scheduled proceeding.
4. The application must be filed with the Court and served on all other parties.
5. The application must include:
 - 5.1 The reason remote testimony is being sought;
 - 5.2 Whether it is a consent or contested application;
 - 5.3 The cost of in-person attendance for the witness;
 - 5.4 The distance the witness would need to travel;
 - 5.5 The nature of the anticipated evidence; and
 - 5.6 Confirmation of the suitability of the location from where the witness will give evidence and identification of specific technology that will be used to connect with the witness.

6. If the application is contested, the Court shall set a date for oral argument. If unopposed, the parties will be notified of the decision by the Court registry.
7. If the application is granted, the applicant must ensure on the hearing date that:
 - 7.1 The chosen technology provides clear and uninterrupted communication;
 - 7.2 A cell phone is not used for videoconference;
 - 7.3 The witness testifies from a location conducive to both binding their conscience and giving reliable evidence because it is quiet and free from distraction; and
 - 7.4 The witness is available at the designated time.