

# Tips For Testifying Remotely



The Covid 19 pandemic is changing the way we live our lives; this is inevitably going to include the way we give testimony in criminal matters. This guide will offer some quick tips for a witness in a virtual trial.

## 1. Prepare for your testimony



- Find a clean and quiet venue
- Use a simple, light-colored background
- Ensure you have privacy and are free from distractions



- Test your equipment and software prior to testimony
- Ensure webcam is functioning
- Use a wired internet connection or locate close to router

## 2. During your testimony



- Adjust your webcam to frame your face during your testimony
- Mute your microphone until it is your turn to speak
- Close all non-essential applications and mute all noisy notifications



- Avoid using battery power only. Plug into a power source
- Avoid running any other applications. This will conserve computer's networking and processing power
- For home networks, avoid sharing internet service with others

## Do

- Speak clearly and deliberately
- Wait until question has been asked, pause before answering
- Identify if referring to any documents

## Don't

- Talk over another party. Audio is lost
- Communicate with anyone off camera
- Email, text or instant message in any way with any of the parties during testimony



It is an offence to record court proceedings in any way. This includes taking a video capture, photo, or screenshot.

### 3. Remember – It's Still Court



- Dress Professionally – just as you would for a day in regular court
- Address the Parties formally – Your Honour, Mr./Ms.
- Remain patient and polite, the transition to virtual appearances will involve a learning process for all

### 4. Final Tips



Consult with the crown prosecutor to identify any local rules and procedures and ensure you have all necessary login information.