

MEMORANDUM TO: All Chiefs of Police and
Commissioner Thomas Carrique
Chairs, Police Services Boards

FROM: Richard Stubbings
Assistant Deputy Minister
Public Safety Division

SUBJECT: **Availability of Centre of Forensic Sciences Experts for
Remote Testimony**

DATE OF ISSUE:	June 25, 2020
CLASSIFICATION:	General Information
RETENTION:	Indefinite
INDEX NO.:	20-0101
PRIORITY:	Normal

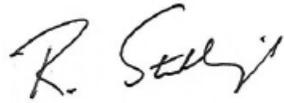
Further to All Chiefs Memo 20-0097, I am writing to you about the availability of experts from the Centre of Forensic Sciences (CFS) for remote testimony. As courts commence re-opening in the province of Ontario, CFS experts are available to provide remote testimony on all case types throughout the province. CFS has asked that remote testimony be considered the default option for all CFS experts.

The CFS provides opinion evidence and attends court to provide expert testimony on approximately 600-700 cases per year at all levels of court throughout Ontario. CFS experts typically provide opinion evidence in the areas of forensic toxicology, biology/DNA, chemistry, questioned documents, and firearms examination. The CFS has several years of experience providing testimony by video in both Ontario Court of Justice and Superior Court of Justice matters, including judge-only and jury proceedings.

CFS experts have access to the necessary applications and technology that may be required for remote testimony and/or pre-trial meetings. They also have access to quiet, private spaces suitable for testimony and testimony preparation. To date, CFS experts have provided video testimony using the Justice Video Network (JVN) and have also participated in videoconferences by Microsoft Teams and Skype for Business. Most recently, the CFS has been working with Justice Technology Services to prepare CFS experts for possible testimony via WebRTC.

If you have any questions, please contact Amy Peaire at Amy.Peaire@ontario.ca or (647) 406-8744.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Stubbings". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and a stylized "Stubbings".

Richard Stubbings
Assistant Deputy Minister
Public Safety Division