VIDEOCONFERENCE LINKS WITH INTERPRETERS: A QUICK GUIDE

This guide shows you what to do when your police interview, lawyer consultation or court hearing takes place using a videoconference link and an interpreter.

Here are examples of what you might expect to happen in a police station or in a court:

Example 1: At the police station

The police want to interview you. If you need an interpreter, the police will arrange this. The interpreter may be on a video link. This means you will see the interpreter on a video screen and hear them through loud speakers. The interpreter will be able to hear and see you, too.

The video link can also be used to get help from an interpreter when you speak to a solicitor.







* * * * * * *

This guide has been produced by the European project AVIDICUS 2 (Assessment of Video-Mediated Interpreting in the Criminal Justice System) with financial support of the Criminal Justice Programme of the European Commission. The contents of this guide are the sole responsibility of the AVIDICUS 2 consortium and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Commission.

Example 2: At the court

You might take part in a court hearing from a police station or prison. You will be able to see the court on a video screen and hear what is said. The interpreter may also be in court, or may be beside you.

The video link can also be used to access an interpreter when you speak to a solicitor.



What you can expect

- Although your interview or hearing takes place via video link, you have the right to a qualified legal interpreter.
- The interpreter may not be sitting beside you, but they will be impartial and independent.
- You will be shown where to sit in front of the video screen.
- You will see and hear everything that happens on the other side of the video link.
- The people at the other end of the video link will introduce themselves.
- You won't be asked to operate any equipment.

If there is anything you do not understand, ask for help.

During the video link

In a video link, it is very important that everyone can see and hear each other properly.

- Face the video screen, just as you would face a person sitting across from you.
- If you cannot see or hear the people at the other end of the video link, say so.
- Try not to move around too much.
- Speak clearly but do not shout.
- Do not speak too quickly.

In a video link it can be difficult for people to interact. At the start, what you need to keep in mind will be explained to you.

- Pause regularly after 2 or 3 sentences, to allow the interpreter to interpret.
- Do not speak when the interpreter or others are speaking. They may not hear what you are saying.
- If you cannot hear or understand, say so.
- If you need to say something, raise your hand to get the attention of the people at the other end.

AVIDICUS Project

Centre for Translation Studies
University of Surrey
Guildford, GU2 7XH
United Kingdom
info@videoconference-interpreting.net

