

## Attending Your Remote Hearing

The Remote Hearing Support Service is here to ensure you have the support you need to participate safely in your court hearing.



### What to expect

We want you to feel safe and supported. There is security and support staff at the remote hearing location to assist you, and you are welcome to bring a support person, such as a friend, with you.

Once you enter the building, you will need to check in at the reception desk. You will be met by a family violence practitioner who works for the court.

Free interpreters are available. Please contact the court before your hearing date if you would like an interpreter to assist you during the court hearing.

### Your safety at the remote hearing

Our staff are here to support you through the court process. Once you check in with reception, we will bring you through to a secure waiting area. When it is time for your court hearing, you will be taken to a private room to attend the hearing online.

The remote hearing family violence practitioner will be available to support you before, during, and after your court hearing. The practitioner can support you with safety planning and can refer you to other services for longer-term support.

**For your safety and the safety of others, it is important that the remote hearing location is not shared with anyone.**

### How does the remote hearing work?

The court will contact you before your court date to provide you with the address of the remote hearing location and arrange your safe attendance.

The remote hearing practitioner will assist you to attend the court hearing online through a video link into the court room.

In the hearing, the Magistrate will read the intervention order application and may ask you questions.

If the Magistrate grants an intervention order, the order will explain the conditions that the respondent needs to follow to protect you from family violence.

The practitioner can provide you with a copy of the court order, answer your questions, and talk to you about the next steps.

### On the court day

- Please arrive at the remote hearing location at 9:30am on your court day.
- A family violence practitioner will support you before, during and after your hearing.
- If you do not have a lawyer, a free lawyer may be able to help you on your court day. Contact the court before your hearing if you would like to access a free lawyer.
- If you feel unsafe at the remote hearing location, please speak to security or the remote hearing practitioner.

### Find out more

If you need support or assistance before your court date, please contact your local court and ask to speak to the family violence applicant practitioner.

To find the contact details for your local court, go to: <https://www.mcv.vic.gov.au/going-court/find-court>