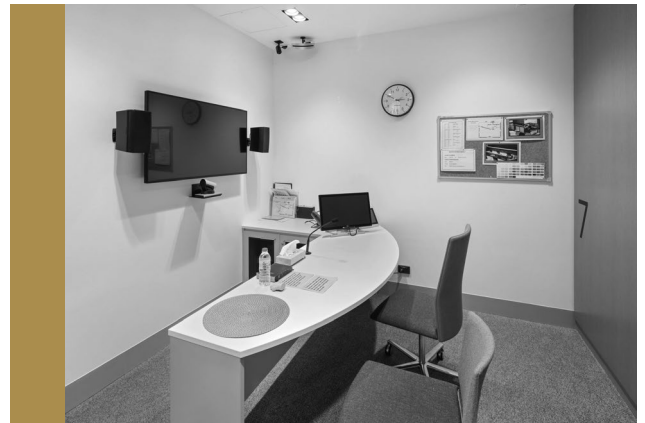


Giving evidence remotely: Remote witness rooms

Supporting Court users

ACT Courts and Tribunal want to provide people with a safe space which supports them when they go to Court or a Tribunal. Part of providing a safe space includes remote witness rooms.



What is a remote witness room?

A remote witness room is a room where you can give your evidence through a video link. Giving evidence in a remote witness room means you do not have to be in the courtroom with the judge, magistrate, the lawyers or the other person.

Remote witness rooms are in the remote witness suites.

The remote witness suites have:

- Remote witness rooms
- A waiting area
- Tea, coffee and water, and
- Toilets, including an accessible toilet

Who is eligible to give evidence remotely?

The law allows certain witnesses to give their evidence via video link. This includes:

- Alleged victims of sexual or serious violent offences
- Alleged victims of family violence offences, and
- Children giving evidence.

These witnesses can give evidence via video link for matters in the:

- ACT Children's Court
- ACT Magistrates Court, and
- ACT Supreme Court.

If you do not fall into these categories, you will need approval from the Court or Tribunal to use a remote witness room to give your evidence via video link.

What if I am not automatically eligible?

Sometimes people can access a remote witness room if they are concerned about their safety, or if they need extra support when going to an ACT Court or the Tribunal.

If you have safety concerns or need extra support, but you are not automatically allowed to give evidence from a remote witness room, you will need to ask permission from the Court.

This means even if you have made a booking and received a confirmation, your booking is not guaranteed unless ordered by a Judge, Magistrate or Registrar. As there are a limited number of remote witness rooms, people who are automatically eligible are given priority.

How can I request a remote witness room?

If your matter is a criminal proceeding:

Make a request to give your evidence remotely to the prosecutor or the person who is assisting you in your matter.

If your matter is a Personal Protection Order or Family Violence Order:

Make a request to give evidence from a remote witness room to the Court directly. If needed, you can ask the person assisting you (your lawyer, Legal Aid, Domestic Violence Crisis Service (DVCS), Victim Support ACT, or other person) to help you with making the request.

When should I make a request for a remote witness room?

You should make a request to give evidence from a remote witness room as soon as:

- You know when your matter will be heard, and
- You have a matter number.

You can make a request to give evidence from a remote witness room using the following link:

www.courts.act.gov.au/coming-to-court/remote-rooms

Where can I find out more?

If you have any questions about giving evidence from a remote witness room, or about the extra supports that are available, you can contact the Client Services Team by phone or email.

(02) 6205 0322

ClientServices@courts.act.gov.au