



Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences Video Testimony Technical Requirements

Computer Minimum Requirements:

- A laptop or PC that can run a Microsoft Windows or Apple Macintosh operating system
- Current Processor (e.g.: Intel i5, i7, i9, AMD Ryzen 5000-7000 series)
- Memory 4GB or greater
- Access to the internet via a hard-wired Ethernet connection

Audio Video Recommendations:

- External Camera, HD/1080p
- External Microphone
- External Speakers
- Monitor (recommend minimum 43" HD/1080p TV)

NOTE: While the audio video recommendations above are peripherals for a PC or laptop, the use of a commercial audio video system will greatly improve the quality of the video testimony. The benefits to this type of system are both the picture quality for viewing by the court, as well as the discernibility in hearing and being heard over using an amplified system.

Operating Requirements:

- Reliable connection to the internet
 - A wired connection is the most reliable
 - Wireless may work, however it is unpredictable and not recommended
 - Bandwidth requirements are minimal, and fall *below* most current broadband internet connections—4MB/s or greater work adequately
- The computer should be fairly clean application-wise:
 - Minimize other installed applications which might cause delays or issues
 - No other video conferencing software installed which might conflict
- Several different video conferencing systems are recommended and supported for Video Testimony sessions; they offer reliable operation, support secure authentication, by default support encryption, and are compatible with all most current computer environments.

The software platforms currently recommended are:

Zoom Cloud Services
Cisco Webex Cloud Services
Microsoft Teams

For various reasons, we do not recommend or support other platforms for Video Testimony Sessions, including:

Microsoft Teams
Skype or Skype Business
Google Video
Apple Facetime
LogMein



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Non-technical:

- The computer setup ideally should be dedicated for Video Testimony, such as being setup on a portable A/V cart
 - Avoids changes to the setup which might cause the equipment and operation of the video software to fail
- Testing prior to the video testimony is critical to ensure that everything operates; settings have not been changed, etc.
 - There are only a few computer settings which are specific to operation of a video testimony session, typically with microphone, and speaker output selections; however these can be inadvertently changed, and can create an issue at the time of testimony
 - Attempting to troubleshoot when the testimony begins has minimal chance to succeed due to time constraints
 - Fallback system for the court can be to use a cellular phone into the video system via web browser
 - Quality suffers because of smaller device, however there shouldn't be any other issues
- For any other information or questions, please contact Bob Buel, ADFS IT Director:
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