



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 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, using a commercial audio video system will significantly improve the quality of the video testimony. This type of system benefits from both the picture quality for viewing by the court and the discernibility in hearing and being heard 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—100MB/s or greater works adequately
- The computer should be reasonably 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, secure authentication, support encryption by default, 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:

- Skype or Skype Business
- Google Video
- Apple Facetime
- LogMeIn



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Non-technical:

- The computer setup ideally should be dedicated to Video Testimony
 - Avoids changes to the setup which might cause the equipment and operation of the video software to fail
 - This avoids the possible installation of software which might interfere with the video streaming software
- Testing before the video testimony is critical to ensure that everything operates; settings have not been changed, etc.
 - There are only a few computer settings that are specific to the 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 of succeeding due to time constraints
 - The fallback system for the court can be to use a cellular phone in the video system via a web browser
 - Quality suffers because of the smaller device. However, there shouldn't be any other issues

For any other information or questions, please contact:

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