Minimum Technology Standards for Remote Proceedings (SB 133)
(Adopted by the Judicial Council of California, effective April 1, 2024)

Effective July 1, 2024, in a courtroom in which the court is conducting a remote proceeding, the following minimum technology standards apply:

(a) As used in these standards:

(1) "Court technology" means the court-provided technology, equipment, and platforms used in courtrooms or by judicial officers or court staff to participate in remote proceedings and that is necessary to meet these standards.

(2) "Participants" means judicial officers, court staff, parties, attorneys, witnesses, jurors, court reporters, and court interpreters.

(3) "Remote proceeding" has the meaning provided in California Rules of Court, rule 3.672.

(b) A judicial officer and court reporter in a courtroom holding a remote proceeding must have access to a hard-wired or other reliable high-speed internet connection.

(c) The court must provide monitors, dedicated cameras, speakers, and microphones so the judicial officer, court reporter, and court interpreter can see and hear remote participants.

(1) Court-provided microphones must have a mute or off function.

(2) Court-provided microphones must allow a participant to hear, and be heard by, all other participants when necessary.

(3) Court-provided monitors must allow participants to see and identify the participant who is speaking.

(4) Court technology must provide participants with the capability to alert the court to behavior that is disruptive and may not be visible to all.

(5) Court technology must provide the ability for the judicial officer or designated courtroom staff to mute or remove from the remote proceeding any remote participant or any unauthorized person who joins the remote proceeding.

(6) Court technology must allow remote participants to be identified during the proceeding to ensure an accurate record.

(7) Court-provided speaker equipment must be of sufficient clarity so that the judicial officer and all other participants may hear one another when necessary.

(d) Court technology must be capable of allowing the judicial officer and all other participants attending the proceeding in person to hear and be heard by remote participants, as well as to see and be seen by remote participants who are capable of using video if the court orders the proceeding to be conducted using video, or as required or allowed by statute.

(e) On or after July 1, 2024, if a court is unable to meet these standards for a proceeding listed in Code of Civil Procedure section 367.76(a)(1) or Welfare and Institutions Code section 679.5(b), an official reporter or official reporter pro tempore must be physically present in the same room as the judicial officer for that proceeding.

Statutory References

Code of Civil Procedure section 367.76(o): By April 1, 2024, the Judicial Council shall adopt, and trial courts shall implement by July 1, 2024, minimum standards for the courtroom technology necessary to permit remote participation in proceedings subject to this section. Those standards shall include, but not be limited to, hard-wired or other reliable high-speed internet connections in the courtroom for the judicial officer and court reporter, and monitors, dedicated cameras, speakers, and microphones so the judicial officer, court reporter, and court interpreter can appropriately see and hear remote participants, as well as to ensure that remote participants can appropriately see and hear the judicial officer and other courtroom participants.

Code of Civil Procedure section 367.76(f)(2): Beginning July 1, 2024, when the court conducts proceedings [defined in Code Civ. Proc., § 376.76(a)(1)] that will be reported by an official reporter or official reporter pro tempore, the reporter shall be physically present in the same room as the judicial officer if the court cannot provide the technology standards described in subdivision (o).

Welfare & Institutions Code section 679.5(n): By April 1, 2024, the Judicial Council shall adopt, and trial courts shall implement by July 1, 2024, minimum standards for the courtroom technology necessary to permit remote participation in juvenile justice proceedings. Such standards shall include, but not be limited to, hard-wired or other reliable high-speed internet connections in the courtroom for the judicial officer and court reporter, and monitors, dedicated cameras, speakers, and microphones so the judicial officer, court reporter, and court interpreter can appropriately see and hear remote participants, as well as to ensure that remote participants can appropriately see and hear the judicial officer and other courtroom participants.

Welfare & Institutions Code section 679.5(k)(2): Beginning July 1, 2024, when the court conducts proceedings [defined in Welf. & Inst. Code, § 679.5(b)] that will be reported by an official reporter or official reporter pro tempore, the reporter shall be physically present in the same room as the judicial officer if the court cannot provide the technology standards described in subdivision (n).