

1. Does the VP need to be present in person or virtually to participate for (all or part of) this hearing?



2. Does the VP need to understand the detail or key points discussed in the proceedings?

YES



5. Options for Intermediary to assist by preparing easy read / visual information to explain outcome:

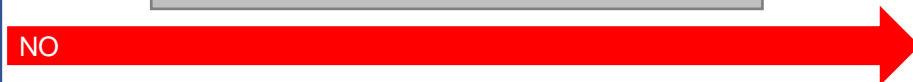
5.1 Intermediary could be present via remote link to listen to proceedings and make summary. Accuracy should be checked with counsel.

5.2 A copy of position statements/ opening / closing speeches and the Judge's decision could be provided to the intermediary to be summarised / simplified for VP.

5.3 In addition, Intermediaries carry out ongoing evaluation of the emotional state and regulation of the VP. This may be supported by the use of visual material.

3. Does the information the Intermediary has gathered suggest that remote link will allow effective participation for this VP in this part of proceedings? Would remote link be suitable for a contested hearing or full trial?

NO



4. Intermediary not required for assistance.

7. Will any of these options for Intermediary assistance that involve remote working be effective? The Intermediary will need to intervene as and when necessary. GHR must be held at the start of each hearing in family courts or at the start of the trial.

7.1 VP participates via remote link and Intermediary participates virtually too from a separate location - to simplify and summarise key information (during breaks in hearings, or after proceedings have finished). **Practice sessions and set up sessions required for VP.**

7.2 Intermediary and VP appear together via remote link from the same location (consider factors in box 8) **Is there a facility for a break out 'room'?**

7.3 VP appears in person and Intermediary appears virtually. This will require careful case by case decision making and planning. May not be feasible. Vital to follow recommendations following Intermediary assessment.

IF 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3 not appropriate consider

7.4 VP appears in person with Intermediary assistance in person. Criminal cases: consider defendant and Intermediary sitting in well of court. Other participants may be appearing virtually (see box 8. for options for safely assisting)

8. VP appears in person with Intermediary also in person to provide assistance. Options dependant on current COVID-19 guidelines to be adopted:

8.1 Hearing held in large court room that would allow 2m physical distancing between Intermediary and VP e.g. at a table seated in the area where they can **see, hear** and communicate.

8.3 VP and Intermediary in another room within the court building e.g. empty adjoining (jury) room or a second vacant courtroom with remote link to the courtroom where hearing is being held. Intermediary, VP security / escorts would need to be able to maintain 2m distancing and follow COVID 19 guidelines.

6. Is the VP likely to be able to understand this part of proceedings without Intermediary assistance?



4. Intermediary not required

This has been developed by IfJ from documents created by the Talking Trouble team in New Zealand with their permission.