



## ★ TECHNOLOGY

- Before your court hearing, make sure you have a device with a microphone and camera. Sit somewhere quiet where you can charge your device.
- Keep your contact information updated with the court. Check with the court about address confidentiality rules.

## DIRECT-EXAMINATION (YOUR SIDE OF THE STORY)

- The judge will ask you questions - this is called direct examination.
- Make sure you talk about what you wrote in the filed paperwork.
- Introduce all evidence during your direct examination.

## ADDITIONAL COURT DATES

- Before your hearing, check your calendar for dates you are unavailable in case you need a second court date.
- Clarify that the next court date is also virtual.
- Clarify with the judge what the order is until the next court date.

## DECISION AKA COURT ORDER

- Ask if you will receive the decision in person, by regular mail, email, or over the phone.
- You may get the decision at the end of your hearing, later that same day, or the judge may give you the decision on a later date.

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## EVIDENCE

- Call or email the court to ask how evidence should be sent to the court and shown.
- Examples of evidence: text messages, recordings, photos, and medical records/documents
- For screenshots, make sure you can see dates, times, and sender where applicable.

## CROSS-EXAMINATION

- After you tell yours side of the story, the abuser or their attorney gets to ask you questions - this is called cross examination.
- It's best to answer "yes" or "no" when you can. (You can answer "I don't know" or "I don't remember")
- When they are done asking you questions, you can ask to speak again to explain your answers.

## CLOSING

- After each party testifies, you may have one final change to explain to the judge why you are requesting certain relief.
- Relief examples: Custody, order of protection, child support, parenting time order.

## GENERAL TIPS

- If you want to avoid seeing your abuser on screen during the virtual hearing, switch your view to "Speaker View" so you only see the person speaking.
- For additional support contact your local court and/or law library.

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