

MODEL VRI INSTALLATIONS FOR COURTS

Adapted from [Remote Interpreting Guide for Courts, Court Staff, and Justice Partners](#), NCSC, October 2018

	OPTION	REQUIREMENTS	CONSIDERATIONS
Least Technology Required	Telephonic Interpretation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpreter Telephone • Courtroom Telephone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lowest cost option • Least functionality of all options • Hearings/Events must be done in consecutive mode; events will take longer this way • Landlines are recommended • No video capabilities
		<p><i>How it works:</i> The interpreter is based in a separate location from the court official and the LEP speaker and interprets in the consecutive mode. The phone can be integrated and amplified through the courtroom’s existing A/V system or can be used as a simple stand-alone device with amplification through the phone’s internal speaker.</p>	
Medium-Low Solution	Video Conferencing with Software Alone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skype, FaceTime, VSee, *Zoom, or other similar software • Court and Interpreter must be using the same program and, potentially, the same type of equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be a low- or no cost option • Video allow for the judicial officer, LEP speaker, and interpreter to see one another • *Hearings/Events must be done in consecutive mode • Programs like Skype use large amounts of bandwidth • Security and confidentiality of transmissions may not be guaranteed with these programs
		<p><i>How it works:</i> The interpreter is based in a separate location from the court and LEP speaker. Using compatible software programs on computers or other enabled devices, the interpreter provides interpreting services via video-enabled devices.</p> <p><i>*Zoom has integrated simultaneous functionality. Hearings/Events may be done in consecutive or simultaneous mode when the feature is enabled.</i></p>	

(continued)

MODEL VRI INSTALLATIONS FOR COURTS

Adapted from [Remote Interpreting Guide for Courts, Court Staff, and Justice Partners](#), NCSC, October 2018

	OPTION	REQUIREMENTS	CONSIDERATIONS
Medium-High Solution	Full Video Conferencing System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camera or webcam for both interpreter and court • Courtroom computer, monitor, TV or projector • Interpreter computer or device with videoconferencing equipment • Microphones & speaker • Interpreter headset • High-speed internet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upfront equipment costs • Ongoing maintenance costs of equipment • Some higher-level technical support may be required • Supports various configurations • Many courts already have some or all of this equipment for video arraignments
		<p><i>How it Works: There are two ways of using videoconference technology to provide interpreting services. An interpreter can be with the participants in the courtroom or the interpreter can be located with the LEP speaker in a location such as a jail. The off-site speakers are projected on a screen and their speech is transmitted directly to the headsets of participants and interpreters or over the speaker system. The interpretation is typically conducted in the consecutive mode.</i></p>	
High-end Solution	Specialized Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desktop/laptop computers for both court and interpreter • Webcams for both court and interpreter • External speakers in courtroom • Interpreter headset • High-speed internet • Integrated telephones • Integrated courtroom cameras • Quality of Service (QoS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High upfront cost for equipment • Ongoing maintenance fees • Allows for simultaneous interpreting • Allows for private or privileged conversations • All parties can see one another • In some cases, the interpreter can control courtroom camera(s) to better view participants • Allows multiple parties to appear remotely
		<p><i>How it Works: VRI uses video conferencing equipment over high-speed broadband connections or ISDN lines carrying both video and audio messages. Equipment is paired with wired or wireless connections. VRI sessions can be conducted via internet, intranet or ISDN. Typically, the LEP person and English speakers are located together at one location (courtroom) with a web camera (or other technology) while the interpreter works from a separate location. However, other configurations are feasible provided all end-points have the required equipment.</i></p>	

NOTE 1: Courts with existing videoconferencing equipment may be able to take advantage of AOC VRI resources even without the specialized equipment of the statewide VRI system. Contact the AOC Language Access Coordinator for information.

NOTE 2: Courts with existing videoconferencing equipment may also consider adding telephones to their courtroom to enable simultaneous interpreting capabilities similar to the high-end VRI solution at lower cost.