

**Closed-Circuit Testimony Under Penal Code Sections  
1347 and 1347.5**

*Report to the Legislature  
April 20, 2001*

**JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS**  
455 Golden Gate Avenue  
San Francisco, California 94102-3660

**JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS**  
455 Golden Gate Avenue  
San Francisco, California 94102-3660

**Closed-Circuit Testimony Under Penal Code Sections 1347 and 1347.5**

**Report to the Legislature**  
**April 17, 2001**

The Judicial Council submits to the Legislature this report on the frequency of use and effectiveness of closed-circuit television testimony pursuant to Penal Code sections 1347 and 1347.5.

Attachment 1 is a table that summarizes the courts' responses to inquiries about frequency of use. Attachment 2 is the text of Penal Code sections 1347 and 1347.5.

Statutory Background

Penal Code section 1347 permits a child under age 14 to testify via closed-circuit television under certain circumstances if the testimony is about a case in which the child was the victim of a sexual offense or a violent felony. This section of the code, originally enacted in 1985, was amended in 1998 to raise the maximum age of the minor from 10 to 13 years. The 1998 amendments also included the addition of a requirement that the Judicial Council prepare and submit to the Legislature, on or before December 31, 2000, a report on the frequency of use and effectiveness of closed-circuit testimony.

Penal Code section 1347.5 permits a disabled victim of certain offenses to testify via closed-circuit television in limited circumstances. This section was enacted in 1995. It was amended in 1998 to expand the list of offenses to which the section applies. The 1998 amendments also required that the Judicial Council submit, within two years of the amendment, a report to the Legislature on the frequency of use and effectiveness of closed-circuit testimony. (Attachment 2 contains the text of Penal Code sections 1347 and 1347.5.)

Methodology

Because the courts do not normally provide data to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) on the use of closed-circuit testimony, the data for this report was collected through a special request for information. Staff members at the AOC

requested information on the use of closed-circuit testimony from every court. Twenty-five courts responded; together, these courts represent 59 percent of all felony filings in fiscal year 1999–2000.

## Findings

### *Information Provided by Courts*

Of the 25 responding courts, only one reported having used closed-circuit testimony (Attachment I). That court, the Superior Court of Orange County, did not employ Penal Code section 1347 or 1347.5 in authorizing the procedure. The remaining 24 reporting courts stated that they had not used closed-circuit testimony. Several large courts were among those that had *not* used closed-circuit testimony, including the Superior Courts of Alameda, Riverside, Santa Clara, and Sacramento Counties.

The Superior Court of Orange County reported that it used closed-circuit testimony in a death penalty case, but not under the authority of Penal Code section 1347 or 1347.5. The witnesses in that case lived out of state, and one was physically disabled and unable to travel. They were not victims but character witnesses for the defense. Thus, although they testified via closed-circuit testimony, neither Penal Code section 1347 nor 1347.5 applied.

The Superior Court of Orange County did, however, provide some information about the use of closed-circuit testimony that may be of interest to the Legislature. The court reported that there were technological difficulties at the beginning of the testimony because of a time delay in the transmission of questions and answers. Nevertheless, once the attorneys and the witnesses adjusted to the delay, the procedure “went smoothly.” This example is provided for information only; it is not an instance in which the provisions of Penal Code section 1347 or 1347.5 applied.

Several courts reported that they did not have the equipment to accommodate a request for closed-circuit testimony. Two courts reported that they *could* accommodate closed-circuit testimony but that no one had requested it. Only one court reported that it had received a request for closed-circuit testimony that it could not accommodate.

### *California Case Law*

To supplement the data provided by the trial courts regarding the use of closed-circuit testimony, staff at the AOC conducted an electronic search of all reported appellate cases in California. The appellate courts of California have not directly addressed the use of closed-circuit testimony under Penal Code sections 1347 and 1347.5.

### *Information Provided by Practitioners*

Criminal law practitioners confirm that the procedures in Penal Code sections 1347 and 1347.5 are rarely used. A 1998 analysis of an amendment to Penal Code section 1347 reported that “the head of the Los Angeles District Attorney’s Sex Crimes Unit said her office has used the existing procedure only once. The head of the Sacramento District Attorney’s sex crime/child abuse unit said his unit has never used the existing authority to conduct testimony via closed-circuit television.” (Assem. Com. on Public Safety, Analysis of Assem. Bill 1692 (1997–1998 Reg. Sess.) as amended April 27, 1998.) None of the practitioners contacted by AOC staff since 1998 reported any increase in the use of closed-circuit testimony under Penal Code sections 1347 and 1347.5.

Both defense attorneys and prosecutors have suggested that “live” testimony is strategically preferable to testimony via closed-circuit television. This preference may explain, at least in part, why closed-circuit testimony is used so infrequently.

### Conclusion

Although not every court has reported to the AOC on its use of closed-circuit testimony, those that have reported provide a sample large enough from which to draw some conclusions. Because no court reported using closed-circuit testimony under the authority of Penal Code section 1347 or 1347.5, it is reasonable to conclude that these sections are rarely, if ever used in the courts.

# ATTACHMENT 1

## Frequency of Use of Closed-Circuit Testimony, by Court

Reporting Court (25 Courts Reported)	Has Court Used Closed-Circuit Testimony?	Comments About Use of Closed-Circuit Testimony
Alameda	No	Only one court location has a conduit for closed-circuit testimony, but even that court lacks the equipment to use the conduit.
Calaveras	No	Court does not have the facilities to accommodate a request for closed-circuit testimony.
Del Norte	No	In cases in which a defendant is acting too dangerously in the courtroom, the court occasionally uses video technology to permit an in-custody defendant to watch proceedings from a cell. (This practice does not involve Penal Code section 1347 or 1347.5)
El Dorado	No	Court does not have the facilities to accommodate a request for closed-circuit testimony.
Fresno	No	
Lake	No	
Merced	No	Court does not have the facilities to accommodate a request for closed-circuit testimony.
Mono	No	
Napa	Yes	Court has used closed-circuit television to improve public access in high-profile cases but has not used it for testimony under Penal Code section 1347 or 1347.5.
Orange	Yes	Court has used closed-circuit television but not under Penal Code section 1347 or 1347.5. Additional comments in report.
Riverside	No	Court is well equipped for closed-circuit testimony.
Sacramento	No	
San Benito	No	
San Bernardino	No	
San Diego	No	
San Francisco	No	
San Mateo	No	
Santa Clara	No	
Shasta	No	
Stanislaus	No	
Trinity	No	
Tulare	No	
Ventura	No	Some attorneys have requested closed-circuit testimony, but the court does not have the necessary equipment to accommodate the request.
Yolo	No	Court does not have the facilities to accommodate a request for closed-circuit testimony.
Yuba	No	Court does not have the facilities to accommodate a request for closed-circuit testimony.

## ATTACHMENT 2

### California Penal Code section 1347

1347. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this section to provide the court with discretion to employ unusual court procedures to protect the rights of a child witness, the rights of the defendant, and the integrity of the judicial process. In exercising its discretion, the court necessarily will be required to balance the rights of the defendant or defendants against the need to protect a child witness and to preserve the integrity of the court's truthfinding function. This discretion is intended to be used selectively when the facts and circumstances in the individual case present compelling evidence of the need to use these unusual procedures.

(b) Notwithstanding any other law, the court in any criminal proceeding, upon written notice by the prosecutor made at least three days prior to the date of the preliminary hearing or trial date on which the testimony of the minor is scheduled, or during the course of the proceeding on the court's own motion, may order that the testimony of a minor 13 years of age or younger at the time of the motion be taken by contemporaneous examination and cross-examination in another place and out of the presence of the judge, jury, defendant or defendants, and attorneys, and communicated to the courtroom by means of closed-circuit television, if the court makes all of the following findings:

(1) The minor's testimony will involve a recitation of the facts of either of the following:

(A) An alleged sexual offense committed on or with the minor.

(B) The minor is a victim of a violent felony, as defined in subdivision (c) of Section 667.5.

(2) The impact on the minor of one or more of the factors enumerated in subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive, is shown by clear and convincing evidence to be so substantial as to make the minor unavailable as a witness unless closed-circuit television is used.

(A) Threats of serious bodily injury to be inflicted on the minor or a family member, of incarceration or deportation of the minor or a family member, or of removal of the minor from the family or dissolution of the family, in order to prevent or dissuade the minor from attending or giving testimony at any trial or court proceeding, or to prevent the minor from reporting the alleged sexual offense or from assisting in criminal prosecution.

(B) Use of a firearm or any other deadly weapon during the

commission of the crime.

(C) Infliction of great bodily injury upon the victim during the commission of the crime.

(D) Conduct on the part of the defendant or defense counsel during the hearing or trial that causes the minor to be unable to continue his or her testimony.

In making the determination required by this section, the court shall consider the age of the minor, the relationship between the minor and the defendant or defendants, any handicap or disability of the minor, and the nature of the acts charged. The minor's refusal to testify shall not alone constitute sufficient evidence that the special procedure described in this section is necessary to obtain the minor's testimony.

(3) The equipment available for use of closed-circuit television would accurately communicate the image and demeanor of the minor to the judge, jury, defendant or defendants, and attorneys.

(c) If the court orders the use of closed-circuit television, two-way closed-circuit television shall be used, except that if the impact on the minor of one or more of the factors enumerated in subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive, of paragraph (2) of subdivision (b), is shown by clear and convincing evidence to be so substantial as to make the minor unavailable as a witness even if two-way closed-circuit television is used, one-way closed-circuit television may be used. The prosecution shall give the defendant or defendants at least 30 days written notice of the prosecution's intent to seek the use of one-way closed-circuit television, unless good cause is shown to the court why this 30-day notice requirement should not apply.

(d) (1) The hearing on a motion brought pursuant to this section shall be conducted out of the presence of the jury.

(2) Notwithstanding Section 804 of the Evidence Code or any other law, the court, in determining the merits of the motion, shall not compel the minor to testify at the hearing; nor shall the court deny the motion on the ground that the minor has not testified.

(3) In determining whether the impact on an individual child of one or more of the four factors enumerated in paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) is so substantial that the minor is unavailable as a witness unless two-way or one-way closed-circuit television is used, the court may question the minor in chambers, or at some other comfortable place other than the courtroom, on the record for a reasonable period of time with the support person, the prosecutor, and defense counsel present. The defendant or defendants shall not be present. The court shall conduct the questioning of the minor and

shall not permit the prosecutor or defense counsel to examine the minor. The prosecutor and defense counsel shall be permitted to submit proposed questions to the court prior to the session in chambers. Defense counsel shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to consult with the defendant or defendants prior to the conclusion of the session in chambers.

(e) When the court orders the testimony of a minor to be taken in another place outside of the courtroom, the court shall do all of the following:

(1) Make a brief statement on the record, outside of the presence of the jury, of the reasons in support of its order. While the statement need not include traditional findings of fact, the reasons shall be set forth with sufficient specificity to permit meaningful review and to demonstrate that discretion was exercised in a careful, reasonable, and equitable manner.

(2) Instruct the members of the jury that they are to draw no inferences from the use of closed-circuit television as a means of facilitating the testimony of the minor.

(3) Instruct respective counsel, outside of the presence of the jury, that they are to make no comment during the course of the trial on the use of closed-circuit television procedures.

(4) Instruct the support witness, outside of the presence of the jury, that he or she is not to coach, cue, or in any way influence or attempt to influence the testimony of the minor.

(5) Order that a complete record of the examination of the minor, including the images and voices of all persons who in any way participate in the examination, be made and preserved on videotape in addition to being stenographically recorded. The videotape shall be transmitted to the clerk of the court in which the action is pending and shall be made available for viewing to the prosecuting attorney, the defendant or defendants, and his or her attorney during ordinary business hours. The videotape shall be destroyed after five years have elapsed from the date of entry of judgment. If an appeal is filed, the tape shall not be destroyed until a final judgment on appeal has been ordered. Any videotape that is taken pursuant to this section is subject to a protective order of the court for the purpose of protecting the privacy of the witness. This subdivision does not affect the provisions of subdivision (b) of Section 868.7.

(f) When the court orders the testimony of a minor to be taken in another place outside the courtroom, only the minor, a support person designated pursuant to Section 868.5, a nonuniformed bailiff, and, after consultation with the prosecution and the defense, a representative appointed by the court, shall be physically present



shall not permit the prosecutor or defense counsel to examine the minor. The prosecutor and defense counsel shall be permitted to submit proposed questions to the court prior to the session in chambers. Defense counsel shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to consult with the defendant or defendants prior to the conclusion of the session in chambers.

(e) When the court orders the testimony of a minor to be taken in another place outside of the courtroom, the court shall do all of the following:

(1) Make a brief statement on the record, outside of the presence of the jury, of the reasons in support of its order. While the statement need not include traditional findings of fact, the reasons shall be set forth with sufficient specificity to permit meaningful review and to demonstrate that discretion was exercised in a careful, reasonable, and equitable manner.

(2) Instruct the members of the jury that they are to draw no inferences from the use of closed-circuit television as a means of facilitating the testimony of the minor.

(3) Instruct respective counsel, outside of the presence of the jury, that they are to make no comment during the course of the trial on the use of closed-circuit television procedures.

(4) Instruct the support witness, outside of the presence of the jury, that he or she is not to coach, cue, or in any way influence or attempt to influence the testimony of the minor.

(5) Order that a complete record of the examination of the minor, including the images and voices of all persons who in any way participate in the examination, be made and preserved on videotape in addition to being stenographically recorded. The videotape shall be transmitted to the clerk of the court in which the action is pending and shall be made available for viewing to the prosecuting attorney, the defendant or defendants, and his or her attorney during ordinary business hours. The videotape shall be destroyed after five years have elapsed from the date of entry of judgment. If an appeal is filed, the tape shall not be destroyed until a final judgment on appeal has been ordered. Any videotape that is taken pursuant to this section is subject to a protective order of the court for the purpose of protecting the privacy of the witness. This subdivision does not affect the provisions of subdivision (b) of Section 868.7.

(f) When the court orders the testimony of a minor to be taken in another place outside the courtroom, only the minor, a support person designated pursuant to Section 868.5, a nonuniformed bailiff, and, after consultation with the prosecution and the defense, a representative appointed by the court, shall be physically present

for the testimony. A videotape shall record the image of the minor and his or her testimony, and a separate videotape shall record the image of the support person.

(g) When the court orders the testimony of a minor to be taken in another place outside the courtroom, the minor shall be brought into the judge's chambers prior to the taking of his or her testimony to meet for a reasonable period of time with the judge, the prosecutor, and defense counsel. A support person for the minor shall also be present. This meeting shall be for the purpose of explaining the court process to the child and to allow the attorneys an opportunity to establish rapport with the child to facilitate later questioning by closed-circuit television. No participant shall discuss the defendant or defendants or any of the facts of the case with the minor during this meeting.

(h) When the court orders the testimony of a minor to be taken in another place outside the courtroom, nothing in this section prohibits the court from ordering the minor to be brought into the courtroom for a limited purpose, including the identification of the defendant or defendants as the court deems necessary.

(i) The examination shall be under oath, and the defendant or defendants shall be able to see and hear the minor witness and if two-way closed-circuit television is used, the defendant's image shall be transmitted live to the witness.

(j) Nothing in this section affects the disqualification of witnesses pursuant to Section 701 of the Evidence Code.

(k) The cost of examination by contemporaneous closed-circuit television ordered pursuant to this section shall be borne by the court out of its existing budget.

(l) The Judicial Council shall prepare and submit to the Legislature, on or before December 31, 2000, a report on the frequency of use and effectiveness of closed-circuit testimony.

(m) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2003, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2003, deletes or extends that date.

*Note subsection (l) providing that the section below takes effect January 1, 2003.*

1347. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this section to provide the court with discretion to employ unusual court procedures to protect the rights of a child witness, the rights of the defendant, and the integrity of the judicial process. In exercising its discretion, the court necessarily will be required to

balance the rights of the defendant or defendants against the need to protect a child witness and to preserve the integrity of the court's truthfinding function. This discretion is intended to be used selectively when the facts and circumstances in the individual case present compelling evidence of the need to use these unusual procedures.

(b) Notwithstanding any other law, the court in any criminal proceeding, upon written notice by the prosecutor made at least three days prior to the date of the preliminary hearing or trial date on which the testimony of the minor is scheduled, or during the course of the proceeding on the court's own motion, may order that the testimony of a minor 13 years of age or younger at the time of the motion be taken by contemporaneous examination and cross-examination in another place and out of the presence of the judge, jury, defendant or defendants, and attorneys, and communicated to the courtroom by means of closed-circuit television, if the court makes all of the following findings:

(1) The minor's testimony will involve a recitation of the facts of an alleged sexual offense committed on or with the minor.

(2) The impact on the minor of one or more of the factors enumerated in subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive, is shown by clear and convincing evidence to be so substantial as to make the minor unavailable as a witness unless closed-circuit television is used.

(A) Threats of serious bodily injury to be inflicted on the minor or a family member, of incarceration or deportation of the minor or a family member, or of removal of the minor from the family or dissolution of the family, in order to prevent or dissuade the minor from attending or giving testimony at any trial or court proceeding, or to prevent the minor from reporting the alleged sexual offense or from assisting in criminal prosecution.

(B) Use of a firearm or any other deadly weapon during the commission of the crime.

(C) Infliction of great bodily injury upon the victim during the commission of the crime.

(D) Conduct on the part of the defendant or defense counsel during the hearing or trial that causes the minor to be unable to continue his or her testimony.

In making the determination required by this section, the court shall consider the age of the minor, the relationship between the minor and the defendant or defendants, any handicap or disability of the minor, and the nature of the acts charged. The minor's refusal to testify shall not alone constitute sufficient evidence that the special procedure described in this section is necessary to obtain

the minor's testimony.

(3) The equipment available for use of closed-circuit television would accurately communicate the image and demeanor of the minor to the judge, jury, defendant or defendants, and attorneys.

(c) If the court orders the use of closed-circuit television, two-way closed-circuit television shall be used, except that if the impact on the minor of one or more of the factors enumerated in subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive, of paragraph (2) of subdivision (b), is shown by clear and convincing evidence to be so substantial as to make the minor unavailable as a witness even if two-way closed-circuit television is used, one-way closed-circuit television may be used. The prosecution shall give the defendant or defendants at least 30 days' written notice of the prosecution's intent to seek the use of one-way closed-circuit television, unless good cause is shown to the court why this 30-day notice requirement should not apply.

(d) (1) The hearing on a motion brought pursuant to this section shall be conducted out of the presence of the jury.

(2) Notwithstanding Section 804 of the Evidence Code or any other law, the court, in determining the merits of the motion, shall not compel the minor to testify at the hearing; nor shall the court deny the motion on the ground that the minor has not testified.

(3) In determining whether the impact on an individual child of one or more of the four factors enumerated in paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) is so substantial that the minor is unavailable as a witness unless two-way or one-way closed-circuit television is used, the court may question the minor in chambers, or at some other comfortable place other than the courtroom, on the record for a reasonable period of time with the support person, the prosecutor, and defense counsel present. The defendant or defendants shall not be present. The court shall conduct the questioning of the minor and shall not permit the prosecutor or defense counsel to examine the minor. The prosecutor and defense counsel shall be permitted to submit proposed questions to the court prior to the session in chambers. Defense counsel shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to consult with the defendant or defendants prior to the conclusion of the session in chambers.

(e) When the court orders the testimony of a minor to be taken in another place outside of the courtroom, the court shall do all of the following:

(1) Make a brief statement on the record, outside of the presence of the jury, of the reasons in support of its order. While the statement need not include traditional findings of fact, the reasons

shall be set forth with sufficient specificity to permit meaningful review and to demonstrate that discretion was exercised in a careful, reasonable, and equitable manner.

(2) Instruct the members of the jury that they are to draw no inferences from the use of closed-circuit television as a means of facilitating the testimony of the minor.

(3) Instruct respective counsel, outside of the presence of the jury, that they are to make no comment during the course of the trial on the use of closed-circuit television procedures.

(4) Instruct the support witness, outside of the presence of the jury, that he or she is not to coach, cue, or in any way influence or attempt to influence the testimony of the minor.

(5) Order that a complete record of the examination of the minor, including the images and voices of all persons who in any way participate in the examination, be made and preserved on videotape in addition to being stenographically recorded. The videotape shall be transmitted to the clerk of the court in which the action is pending and shall be made available for viewing to the prosecuting attorney, the defendant or defendants, and his or her attorney during ordinary business hours. The videotape shall be destroyed after five years have elapsed from the date of entry of judgment. If an appeal is filed, the tape shall not be destroyed until a final judgment on appeal has been ordered. Any videotape that is taken pursuant to this section is subject to a protective order of the court for the purpose of protecting the privacy of the witness. This subdivision does not affect subdivision (b) of Section 868.7.

(f) When the court orders the testimony of a minor to be taken in another place outside the courtroom, only the minor, a support person designated pursuant to Section 868.5, a nonuniformed bailiff, and, after consultation with the prosecution and the defense, a representative appointed by the court, shall be physically present for the testimony. A videotape shall record the image of the minor and his or her testimony, and a separate videotape shall record the image of the support person.

(g) When the court orders the testimony of a minor to be taken in another place outside the courtroom, the minor shall be brought into the judge's chambers prior to the taking of his or her testimony to meet for a reasonable period of time with the judge, the prosecutor, and defense counsel. A support person for the minor shall also be present. This meeting shall be for the purpose of explaining the court process to the child and to allow the attorneys an opportunity to establish rapport with the child to facilitate later questioning by closed-circuit television. No participant shall discuss the

defendant or defendants or any of the facts of the case with the minor during this meeting.

(h) When the court orders the testimony of a minor to be taken in another place outside the courtroom, nothing in this section prohibits the court from ordering the minor to be brought into the courtroom for a limited purpose, including the identification of the defendant or defendants as the court deems necessary.

(i) The examination shall be under oath, and the defendant or defendants shall be able to see and hear the minor witness, and if two-way closed-circuit television is used, the defendant's image shall be transmitted live to the witness.

(j) Nothing in this section affects the disqualification of witnesses pursuant to Section 701 of the Evidence Code.

(k) The cost of examination by contemporaneous closed-circuit television ordered pursuant to this section shall be borne by the court out of its existing budget.

(l) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2003.

## California Penal Code section 1347.5

1347.5. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature, in enacting this section, to provide the court with discretion to modify court procedures, as a reasonable accommodation, to assure that adults and children with disabilities who have been victims of an alleged sexual or otherwise specified offense are able to participate effectively in criminal proceedings. In exercising its discretion, the court shall balance the rights of the defendant against the right of the victim who has a disability to full access and participation in the proceedings, while preserving the integrity of the court's truthfinding function.

(1) For purposes of this section, the term "disability" is defined in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision (c) of Section 11135 of the Government Code.

(2) The right of the victim is not to confront the perpetrator, but derives under both Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C.A. Sec. 794) and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.A. Sec. 12101 and following) as a right to participate in or benefit from the same services or services that are equal or as effective as those enjoyed by persons without disabilities.

(b) Notwithstanding any other law, in any criminal proceeding in which the defendant is charged with a violation of Section 220, 243.4, 261, 261.5, 264.1, 273a, 273d, 285, 286, 288, 288a, 288.5, or 289, subdivision (1) of Section 314, Section 647.6, or with any attempt to commit a crime listed in this subdivision, committed with or upon a person with a disability, the court in its discretion may make accommodations to support the person with a disability, including, but not limited to, any of the following:

(1) Allow the person with a disability reasonable periods of relief from examination and cross-examination during which he or she may retire from the courtroom. The judge may also allow other witnesses in the proceeding to be examined when the person with a disability retires from the courtroom.

(2) Allow the person with a disability to utilize a support person pursuant to Section 868.5 or a regional center representative providing services to a developmentally disabled individual pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 4620) or Article 2 (commencing with Section 4640) of Chapter 5 of Division 4.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code. In addition to, or instead of, allowing the

person with a disability to utilize a support person or regional center representative pursuant to this paragraph, the court may allow the person with a disability to utilize a person necessary to facilitate the communication or physical needs of developmentally disabled individuals.

(3) Notwithstanding Section 68119 of the Government Code, the judge may remove his or her robe if the judge believes that this formal attire prevents full participation of the person with a disability because it is intimidating to him or her.

(4) The judge, parties, witnesses, support persons, and court personnel may be relocated within the courtroom to facilitate a more comfortable and personal environment for the person with a disability as well as accommodating any specific requirements for communication by that person.

(c) The prosecutor may apply for an order that the testimony of the person with a disability at the preliminary hearing, in addition to being stenographically recorded, be recorded and preserved on videotape.

(1) The application for the order shall be in writing and made three days prior to the preliminary hearing.

(2) Upon timely receipt of the application, the judge shall order that the testimony of the person with a disability given at the preliminary hearing be taken and preserved on videotape. The videotape shall be transmitted to the clerk of the court in which the action is pending.

(3) If at the time of trial the court finds that further testimony would cause the person with a disability emotional trauma so that he or she is medically unavailable or otherwise unavailable within the meaning of Section 240 of the Evidence Code, the court may admit the videotape of his or her testimony at the preliminary hearing as former testimony under Section 1291 of the Evidence Code.

(4) Any videotape that is taken pursuant to this subdivision is subject to a protective order of the court for the purpose of protecting the privacy of the person with a disability. This subdivision does not affect the provisions of subdivision (b) of Section 868.7.

(d) Notwithstanding any other law, the court in any criminal proceeding, upon written notice of the prosecutor made at least three days prior to the date of the preliminary hearing or trial date on which the testimony of the person with a disability is scheduled, or during the course of the proceeding on the court's own motion, may order that the testimony of the person with a disability be taken by contemporaneous examination and cross-examination in another place



and out of the presence of the judge, jury, and defendant, and communicated to the courtroom by means of two-way closed-circuit television, if the court makes all of the following findings:

(1) The person with a disability will be called on to testify concerning facts of an alleged sexual offense, or other crime as specified in subdivision (b), committed on or with that person.

(2) The impact on the person with a disability of one or more of the factors enumerated in subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive, is shown by clear and convincing evidence to be so substantial as to make the person with a disability unavailable as a witness unless closed-circuit television is used. The refusal of the person with a disability to testify shall not alone constitute sufficient evidence that the special procedure described in this subdivision is necessary in order to accommodate the disability. The court may take into consideration the relationship between the person with a disability and the defendant or defendants.

(A) Threats of serious bodily injury to be inflicted on the person with a disability or a family member, of incarceration, institutionalization, or deportation of the person with a disability or a family member, or of removal of the person with a disability from his or her residence by withholding needed services when the threats come from a service provider, in order to prevent or dissuade the person with a disability from attending or giving testimony at any trial or court proceeding or to prevent that person from reporting the alleged offense or from assisting in criminal prosecution.

(B) Use of a firearm or any other deadly weapon during the commission of the crime.

(C) Infliction of great bodily injury upon the person with a disability during the commission of the crime.

(D) Conduct on the part of the defendant or defense counsel during the hearing or trial that causes the person with a disability to be unable to continue his or her testimony.

(e) (1) The hearing on the motion brought pursuant to this subdivision shall be conducted out of the presence of the jury.

(2) Notwithstanding Section 804 of the Evidence Code or any other law, the court, in determining the merits of the motion, shall not compel the person with a disability to testify at the hearing; nor shall the court deny the motion on the ground that the person with a disability has not testified.

(3) In determining whether the impact on an individual person with a disability of one or more of the factors enumerated under paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) is so substantial that the person is

unavailable as a witness unless the closed-circuit television procedure is employed, the court may question the person with a disability in chambers, or at some other comfortable place other than the courtroom, on the record for a reasonable period of time with the support person described under paragraph (2) of subdivision (b), the prosecutor, and defense counsel present. At this time the court shall explain the process to the person with a disability. The defendant or defendants shall not be present; however, the defendant or defendants shall have the opportunity to contemporaneously observe the proceedings by closed-circuit television. Defense counsel shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to consult with the defendant or defendants prior to the conclusion of the session in chambers.

(f) When the court orders the testimony of a victim who is a person with a disability to be taken in another place outside of the courtroom, the court shall do all of the following:

(1) Make a brief statement on the record, outside of the presence of the jury, of the reasons in support of its order. While the statement need not include traditional findings of fact, the reasons shall be set forth with sufficient specificity to permit meaningful review and to demonstrate that discretion was exercised in a careful, reasonable, and equitable manner.

(2) Instruct the members of the jury that they are to draw no inferences from the use of closed-circuit television as a means of assuring the full participation of the victim who is a person with a disability by accommodating that individual's disability.

(3) Instruct respective counsel, outside of the presence of the jury, that they are to make no comment during the course of the trial on the use of closed-circuit television procedures.

(4) Instruct the support person, if the person is part of the court's accommodation of the disability, outside of the presence of the jury, that he or she is not to coach, cue, or in any way influence or attempt to influence the testimony of the person with a disability.

(5) Order that a complete record of the examination of the person with a disability, including the images and voices of all persons who in any way participate in the examination, be made and preserved on videotape in addition to being stenographically recorded. The videotape shall be transmitted to the clerk of the court in which the action is pending and shall be made available for viewing to the prosecuting attorney, the defendant, and his or her attorney, during ordinary business hours. The videotape shall be destroyed after five years have elapsed from the date of entry of judgment. If an appeal is filed, the tape shall not be destroyed until a final judgment on

appeal has been ordered. Any videotape that is taken pursuant to this section is subject to a protective order of the court for the purpose of protecting the privacy of the person with a disability. This subdivision does not affect the provisions of subdivision (b) of Section 868.7.

(g) When the court orders the testimony of a victim who is a person with a disability to be taken in another place outside the courtroom, nothing in this section shall prohibit the court from ordering the victim to appear in the courtroom for a limited purpose, including the identification of the defendant or defendants as the court deems necessary.

(h) The examination shall be under oath, and the defendant shall be able to see and hear the person with a disability. If two-way closed-circuit television is used, the defendant's image shall be transmitted live to the person with a disability.

(i) Nothing in this section shall affect the disqualification of witnesses pursuant to Section 701 of the Evidence Code.

(j) The cost of examination by contemporaneous closed-circuit television ordered pursuant to this section shall be borne by the court out of its existing budget.

(k) This section shall not be construed to obviate the need to provide other accommodations necessary to ensure accessibility of courtrooms to persons with disabilities nor prescribe a lesser standard of accessibility or usability for persons with disabilities than that provided by Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.A. Sec. 12101 and following) and federal regulations adopted pursuant to that act.

(l) The Judicial Council shall report to the Legislature, no later than two years after the enactment of this subdivision, on the frequency of the use and effectiveness of admitting the videotape of testimony by means of closed-circuit television.