

# Why did the Nova Scotia Judiciary choose Skype for Business for Virtual Court?

- ▶ Provides a secure environment
  - ▶ Our IT partner completed a Threat Risk Assessment and confirmed the capabilities of Skype and our use were not at risk
- ▶ Provides an established support model for Court Services and the Judiciary
- ▶ Allows us to securely add and receive files
- ▶ Provides integrated teleconferencing and audio/video options
- ▶ Part of our technology compliment; familiar and reliable service
  - ▶ Low effort for setup and training

# Why is the Nova Scotia Judiciary not using Zoom?

- ▶ Our IT partner completed a Threat Risk Assessment on Zoom in early April, many threats and vulnerabilities were identified
- ▶ Zoom has created a 90 day security roadmap and remediated many of those risks. Outstanding for Courts' use:
  - ▶ Ability to receive files via Zoom.
    - ▶ Files added through Zoom do not trigger our Firewall and virus checks therefore leaving our environment at Risk.
  - ▶ Private Chats are not private
    - ▶ Private chats to the host are visible after the meeting
  - ▶ Zoom requires a local administration to manage additional risk mitigations

# Eligibility Criteria for Supreme Court (General Division) Hearings

- ▶ Pilot project at the Law Courts
- ▶ First offered to eligible civil matters in Halifax
- ▶ Expanded June 10 to include matters with documentary exhibits & viva voce evidence, including cross-examination.
- ▶ Now available as an option province-wide, ifs:
  - ▶ All parties are represented by counsel;
  - ▶ The matter can be dealt with in three days or less; and
  - ▶ All parties consent, or a judge otherwise orders.



## 1 MAKE THE REQUEST

- Review the criteria & considerations for virtual court to see if it's the right fit for your matter.
- Contact your local scheduler or the Judge in your case to request that your matter proceed virtually.
- Read BEST PRACTICES FOR REMOTE HEARINGS, available on the Courts' website.

[www.courts.ns.ca/Virtual\\_Court.htm](http://www.courts.ns.ca/Virtual_Court.htm)



## 2 JOIN YOUR TECH CHECK

- The Court will contact you with details of when & how to test your setup. This should take about 15 minutes.
- The tech check should be done in the same space & with the same equipment you expect to use for the actual hearing.
- **Engage your IT support and educate yourself — remember, court staff cannot give advice on equipment or troubleshoot connectivity issues for counsel & parties.**

[www.courts.ns.ca/Virtual\\_Court.htm](http://www.courts.ns.ca/Virtual_Court.htm)



### 3 PREPARE YOURSELF & YOUR SPACE

- Dress & act as if you were physically appearing in court.
- Find an indoor space that is quiet, private & well-lit. Check what will appear on camera behind you.
- Whenever possible, use a hard-wired Internet connection. Wi-Fi is not as reliable.

[www.courts.ns.ca/Virtual\\_Court.htm](http://www.courts.ns.ca/Virtual_Court.htm)



### 4 DON'T CHANGE ANYTHING!

- The tech check is meant to simulate the actual virtual hearing. **Any changes you make after can affect your ability to connect successfully.**
- Join early to deal with any last-minute issues.

[www.courts.ns.ca/Virtual\\_Court.htm](http://www.courts.ns.ca/Virtual_Court.htm)