

Video Teleconference Services

The Social Security Administration is always looking for new ways to provide faster and more convenient service to our claimants. Through the use of video teleconferencing technology we can make your hearing before an Administrative Law Judge of the Office of Hearings and Appeals faster, easier and more convenient.



Why We Use Teleconferencing

In some locations, a video equipped hearing site may be closer to your home than a site at which appearances are made in person. Also, we may be able to schedule you to appear by video teleconference sooner than we can schedule an in-person appearance because the judge does not have to travel to the hearing site. If the judge has to travel, we must wait until we have accumulated a group of cases for the judge to hear. If we need an expert witness, such as a medical adviser, it may be easier to schedule the expert to testify by video teleconference. Video teleconferencing enables us to serve you more quickly.

When You Appear By Video Teleconference At Your Hearing

A hearing where you appear by video teleconference is conducted exactly like a hearing at which you appear in person except that the Administrative Law Judge will remain in his or her office and speak with you over a large, color television screen. A person will be at the videoconference site to monitor the equipment and to assist you before and during the hearing. The judge will be able to see and speak with anyone who comes with you to the hearing, such as your representative or any witnesses. You will be able to see and speak with the judge and anyone who is with the judge or at another video teleconference site, such as a medical or vocational expert. The audio/visual transmission is secure and your privacy will be protected. The hearing is not videotaped. An audio recording is made for the case record as we do in a hearing conducted with everyone in the same location.

Scheduling Use Of Video Teleconferencing

If video teleconference equipment is available in your area, we may schedule you to appear by video teleconference as provided in our regulations. You may state a preference for or against the use of video teleconferencing when the hearing office contacts you about scheduling

your hearing. The Administrative Law Judge will consider your stated preference when setting the time and place of hearing.

If you receive a Notice of Hearing that says you have been scheduled to appear by video teleconference and you do not want to appear by video teleconference, you may have your hearing rescheduled as one at which you may appear in person by telling us at the earliest possible opportunity that you want to make your appearance in that way. Rescheduling your hearing as one at which you may appear in person could delay the hearing, but will not affect the decision in your case. If you object to appearing by video teleconference, but do not tell us as soon as possible that you want your hearing rescheduled as one at which you may appear in person, the Administrative Law Judge will consider whether you had good cause for that delay in deciding whether to reschedule your hearing.

If you have questions, or want more information, please contact your hearing office when it acknowledges receipt of your request for a hearing.

Local Office:



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Social Security Administration
Office of Hearings and Appeals