

Second Study Commission

Civil Law and Procedure

65th Annual Reunion of the IAJ – Tel Aviv, Israel

Questionnaire 2022

VIRTUAL TRIALS IN CIVIL PROCEEDINGS

The Second Study Commission will focus on how our jurisdictions used, and will use, virtual trials and hearings before, during and after the Pandemic. We have limited the questionnaire to six questions, and we expect to receive short and concise answers. The questions are as follows:

1. Did your jurisdiction offer complete or partial virtual civil trials or hearings before the Pandemic? If yes, please describe what was offered and how often the offer was exercised.

**ANSWER: No there was not.**

2. Did your jurisdiction offer civil virtual trials or hearings during the Pandemic? If yes, was there a change in how, what and when it was offered? Were protocols published? Also, if yes, when were the virtual trials/hearings offered and what was the uptake?

**ANSWER: There was no such an offer or facility even during the Pandemic. The only thing we could do is to deal electronically only with the pre- trial appearances according to the Electronic Justice (Electronic Communication) Procedure Rule of 2021 which came into existence on the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2021.**

3. Presuming that civil virtual trials were offered, was there any improvements made in the technology/software that the government provided? How were documents and exhibits managed?

**ANSWER: Not applicable.**

4. What does the future hold in your jurisdiction with respect to the continuation of virtual trials? What are the issues and or benefits that have arisen?

**ANSWER: Not applicable.**

5. Has or is research being done in your jurisdiction to help ameliorate some of the concerns that have arisen with virtual trials?

**ANSWER: Not applicable.**

6. How did the digitally excluded people in your jurisdictions have access to justice and specifically to virtual trials during the Pandemic?

**ANSWER: There is no effect in attainment of justice by people since there is no offer of virtual trials. Although, by January 2022 all the filings in the court are compulsory to be made electronically. But it is still early to have any assessment of the impact on the access of justice by people.**