



First-tier Tribunal (Mental Health) update w/c 17 August 2020

Guidance to Tribunal users on joining hearings being conducted by the Cloud Video Platform (CVP).

- All face to face hearings have been changed to video hearings for the foreseeable future. You'll receive a new hearing notice which contains joining instructions.
- **Before the hearing you should** agree how you can talk privately with your legal representative during the hearing (if you have one).
- We will send you/your representative and the Responsible Authority an email with the link to access the hearing.

What happens at the hearing?

- To join the video hearing, you/your representative and the Responsible Authority should enter the link into the Google Chrome browser. Your representative and anyone else joining the hearing will be asked to type in their full name and role, **e.g. Mary Smith, Solicitor for**, **Arthur Jones, Responsible Clinician**. The details put in the box will be visible throughout the hearing.
- When you join you will be in the waiting area until the hearing starts. If there are any long delays to the start of the hearing, the tribunal will contact you/your representative and the Responsible Authority by email.
- Remember that everyone will be able to see you on video during the hearing.
- **Important: You must not make any personal or private recording or publish any part of**

this hearing, including court emails or papers. It is a criminal offence to do so.

- It is important you are ready to join the video call at the time of the hearing, so that you can take part. If you do not join the call, the hearing may go ahead, and a decision made without you being there.
- At the end of the hearing you will be told what will happen next and when you can expect a decision.
- For non-section 2 patients we need the Attendee Form no later than 6 days before the video hearing, for section 2 hearings we need the form 24 hours before the hearing.
- If any details change then please inform the Tribunal as the Judge needs to know who is joining the hearing.
- The MHA must submit the reports no later than 24 hours before the hearing, these can be emailed to MHTSection2Reports@justice.gov.uk.
- A nearest relative can join the video hearing and they will send a form to complete in advance of the hearing. They must provide an email address so that the joining instructions can be sent to them.