

Sentencing by video link: the Western Australian experience

The Sentencing Act in Western Australia was amended in 1998 to provide for West Australian courts to sentence by video link. The Court may direct the offender to appear in this way for sentencing where it is “in the interests of justice” There are advantages to offenders (for example avoiding travel for long distances in difficult circumstances for a short sentencing proceeding) and pitfalls (cases of mistaken identity and loss of subtle communications by some offenders). This paper will canvass the experience of the WA judiciary in applying these provisions.