Providing communication assistance

This chapter sets guidance on delivering the communication assistance service.

4.1 Communication assistance service overview

Figure 2: Key steps in communication assistance service delivery

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Identification and engagement

The participant is identified as requiring communication assistance. The application form is submitted to the court. The judge determines if a communication assistant will be engaged to do an assessment.

Assessment and report

The communication assistant assesses the participant's communication abilities. The

communication assistant submits an assessment report to the court with recommendations on the special measures required to facilitate communication.

Planning and preparation

The judge considers the assessment report and directs whether further assistance is required. As directed by the judge, the communication assistant works with counsel to prepare for trial and attends preliminary hearings or meetings.

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Communication assistance at trial

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The communication assistant attends trial hearings and conferences to facilitate participation and communication between the court and the participant. Post-trial support may also be required for defendants.

