



DOCUMENT CONTROL INFORMATION

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FILE HISTORY

Date	Author	Description	Version
16/06/2025	Sopra Steria	File creation.	1
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ID	Country	Acronym	Legal base	Article number	Description of the article	Scope	Effective text
1	Austria	AT	Criminal Procedure code	Article 165	Allows the hearing of suspects or accused persons by videoconference, particularly to protect vulnerable witnesses or in situations where physical presence is not possible or desirable. Also applies to the hearing of witnesses in specific circumstances.	Criminal	Published
2	Belgium	BE	Law of the 25 April 2024 on the organisation of hearings by videoconference as part of legal proceedings		Law to modify the Book II, Title VI bis of the Code of criminal procedure.		Published
3	Belgium	BE	Code of Criminal Procedure	Article 75bis	The investigating judge may decide—on their own, or at the request of a witness, party, lawyer, or the public prosecutor—not to include certain identity details in a hearing report if there's a reasonable risk of serious harm to the witness or their relatives. The judge's reasons are recorded, and the decision is final. The public prosecutor keeps a register of such witnesses and ensures confidentiality of their identity.	Criminal	Published
4	Belgium	BE	Code of Criminal Procedure	Article 86bis	If protection under Article 75bis is not enough, the judge can grant full anonymity to a witness if there is a serious threat to them or their relatives, especially in organized crime cases or serious offenses. The judge must verify the witness's identity and reliability. The decision is final, must be justified in writing, and the prosecutor keeps a register of anonymous witnesses.	Criminal	Published
5	Belgium	BE	Code of Criminal Procedure	Article 558§2	Videoconference participants must fully follow and join the proceedings, communicate clearly, and consult their lawyer confidentially. All parties should see and hear each other if allowed. Recording is banned unless legally permitted. Secure access is required.	Criminal	Published
6	Belgium	BE	Code of Criminal Procedure	Article 559	The system should allow the publicity of hearings as well as the non-publicity.	Criminal	Published
7	Belgium	BE	Law of 22/05/2017 on the European Investigation Order in criminal matters		Transposition of the Directive 2014/41/UE		
8	Bulgaria	BG	Criminal Procedure code	Article 474	Permits foreign judicial authorities to conduct interrogations via video or telephone conference with individuals located in Bulgaria—such as witnesses, experts, or defendants—provided this does not conflict with Bulgarian legal principles and, in the case of defendants, requires their consent and procedural coordination. Bulgarian authorities may also interrogate persons abroad using these methods if permitted by the foreign state's laws, with all	Criminal	Published

9	Czechia	CZ	Criminal Procedure code	Section 57	The Czech judicial authorities may request a foreign state to conduct the hearing of a suspect, witness, or expert via videoconference or telephone when their presence in the Czech Republic is inappropriate or impossible. The request must include the main questions, the name of the Czech interviewer, the reasons for the impossibility of the hearing in the Czech Republic, and the applicable legal provisions, with the hearing conducted in accordance with the Czech Code of Criminal Procedure while respecting the legal principles of the foreign state.	Criminal	Published
10	Czechia	CZ	The Act on International Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters	Section 58	The Czech judicial authorities may authorize a foreign state to question a suspect, witness, or expert by videoconference or telephone if holding the hearing in that state is inappropriate or impossible. The hearing is supervised by the Czech authorities, a record is made, the person's identity is verified, and their rights under both Czech and foreign laws are guaranteed, with the possibility to interrupt the hearing if fundamental principles are violated.	Criminal	Published
11	Czechia	CZ	Civil Judicial Procedure Rules	Section 122	Videoconferencing can be used to collect evidence, such as witness or expert testimony, but not for full virtual court proceedings. The court may initiate this or do so at a party's request, considering factors like cost, difficulty, or the impracticality of in-person evidence collection.	Civil	Published
12	Germany	DE	Criminal Procedure code	Article 247a	If a witness faces serious harm by appearing in court, the court may allow them to testify from a different location via live audio-visual transmission, with the testimony recorded if future availability is uncertain. Similarly, an expert may be examined remotely with simultaneous audio-visual transmission, except in cases under section 246a, and such decisions cannot be contested.	Criminal	Published
13	Germany	DE	Criminal Procedure code	Article 58a	A video and audio recording of a witness examination may be made, particularly to protect minors or victims of sexual offences, or when the witness may be unavailable at trial, with mandatory recording in certain cases if the witness consents. These recordings can only be used for criminal prosecution to establish the truth, and while copies may be provided to certain parties under strict conditions, further distribution requires the witness's consent, which they have the right to withhold.	Criminal	Published
14	Denmark	DK	The Consolidate Act on the Administration of Justice	Article 190	Denmark may accept requests for the hearing of witnesses by videoconference, if tis does not contravene the fundamental principles of Danish Law	Criminal	Published

15	Estonia	EE	Criminal Procedure code	Article 489-41	Distance interviewing or examination of persons in a foreign state under a European Investigation Order is conducted via audiovisual means or telephone, with the suspect's consent required for audiovisual questioning; the process follows agreed rules between the requesting and requested states to ensure legal protections and proper notifications. The requested state oversees identification, interpretation, and legal safeguards, while the requesting state's authority leads the interview, with detailed records kept by the requested state's representative.	Criminal	Published
16	Greece	EL			NO INFORMATION FOUND		
17	Spain	ES	Criminal Procedure code	Article 325	A judge, either on their own initiative or at the request of a party, may authorize participation via videoconference in criminal proceedings for reasons of practicality, security, or public order. This applies when in-person appearance by the accused, witness, expert, or others is particularly burdensome or harmful, and must comply with article 229(3) of the Judiciary Act.	Criminal	Published
18	Spain	ES	Criminal Procedure code	Article 731 a.	The Court, either on its own initiative or at the request of a party, may allow participation via videoconference in criminal proceedings for reasons of practicality, security, public order, or when an in-person appearance is especially burdensome or harmful. This is especially applicable in cases involving minors and must comply with article 229(3) of the Judiciary Act.	Criminal	Published
19	Spain	ES	Organic Law 6/1985, of 1 July, on the Judiciary	Article 229 §3	Specifies that legal proceedings can be conducted via videoconference or similar systems allowing bidirectional communication between geographically distant parties while ensuring their ability to interact visually, audibly, and verbally. This setup must uphold the right to contradict and defend oneself, as outlined in procedural laws and regulations governing technology in the justice system. The identity of participants in these virtual proceedings can be verified using electronic means established by the relevant laws, while still adhering to procedural requirements.	Judicial	Published
20	Finland	FI	Law no. 430/2017	Article 15	In accordance with Article 24 of the Directive, witnesses, experts, and victims may be heard via videoconference or other audiovisual means. The district court can, upon written request, order anonymous testimony if anonymity is granted by the issuing Member State and would also be permitted under corresponding national law, with specific procedural safeguards and notifications in place.	Criminal	Published
21	Finland	FI	Law no. 430/2017	Article 16	Under Article 24 of the Directive, suspects or defendants in criminal investigations or proceedings may also be heard via videoconference or other audiovisual means, provided this does not compromise their legal protection. Before consenting, suspects and defendants must be informed of their rights, including the right to legal counsel, and their consent must be recorded; summons and rights information must be properly delivered.	Criminal	Published

22	Finland	FI	Code of Judicial Procedure	Chapter 17, section 34A	A person may be heard in court via video conference or other remote communication methods if appearing in person is unreasonably difficult, costly, or risky, or if the person is under 15 or mentally impaired, and their credibility can still be reliably assessed remotely. Parties must be given the opportunity to question the person, and in certain cases, a telephone may also be used.	Judicial	Last update found was in 2015
23	France	FR	Code of Criminal Procedure	Article D47-12-6	The official report drawn up at each location under Article 706-71 is a technical record that includes details such as the equipment test and the start and end times of the connection. It can be prepared and signed by a court officer designated by the chief clerk or by a prison official designated by the head of the facility.	Criminal	Published
24	France	FR	Code of Criminal Procedure	Article L706-71, modified by law n.2025-532 of 13 June 2025	Videoconferencing may be used in criminal proceedings in France when deemed justified by a magistrate or court. It can apply to hearings, interrogations, confrontations, and court appearances, especially when someone is detained or in cross-border EU cases. The system must ensure confidentiality and allow effective participation. Detainees can refuse videoconferencing in some cases, unless there's a serious risk justifying its use. Lawyers must be able to communicate confidentially with their clients. A decree defines practical implementation.	Criminal	Published
25	France	FR	Code of Criminal Procedure	Article L706-71-1	When videoconferencing requires the person's consent, they must give it within five days of being informed of the hearing date and the planned use of this method. If they refuse, they must state this immediately upon being informed. Once consent is given or no objection is made, the person cannot later refuse videoconferencing.	Criminal	Published
26	France	FR	Circular 2024-11 / E1 - 02/08/2024		Agents must have the tools to use videoconferencing, with the ROMEO41 app helping to book equipped rooms and manage requests. Agents without equipment should know how to book rooms, and lawyers should access these rooms for confidential client meetings before hearings. Local IT technicians (TIP), present in all courts since 2024, handle maintenance and quickly fix any technical issues during hearings.	Criminal	Published
27	France	FR	Law of June 13, 2025		Is to dismantle organized drug trafficking networks in France by strengthening law enforcement, increasing surveillance, isolating dangerous traffickers, and disrupting their financial operations to stop the rise of drug-related crime and violence.	Criminal	Published
28	Croatia	HR	Law on Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters with the Member States of the European Union	Article 42(aa)	The competent judicial authorities may issue a "European Investigation Order" allowing a person (witness, expert, suspect, or accused) located in another Member State to be heard via videoconference or any other audiovisual means.	Criminal	Published
29	Hungary	HU			NO INFORMATION FOUND		

30	Ireland	IE	Civil Law and Criminal Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020	Article 11	Allows Irish courts to direct that civil proceedings—or parts of them—be conducted via remote hearing using real-time electronic communication technology. It ensures participants have the same rights and obligations as in in-person hearings and provides safeguards to prevent unfairness, along with penalties for interference or unauthorized recording. Courts may issue practice directions to guide the use of remote hearings and maintain the administration of justice.	Civil	Published
31	Ireland	IE	Civil Law and Criminal Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020	Article 31	Permits designated bodies in Ireland to conduct hearings remotely using electronic communication technology, modifying existing legal requirements accordingly. It ensures remote hearings can replace in-person appearances, document submissions can be made electronically, and bodies are empowered to adopt suitable procedures. However, this does not apply if such a hearing would be unfair or against the interests of justice, and relevant ministers must designate eligible bodies by order.	Judicial	Published
32	Italy	IT	Criminal Procedure code	article 133-bis	Unless stated otherwise, when a judicial authority orders that an act or hearing be conducted remotely or allows remote participation, the rules of Article 133-ter must be followed. These provisions govern the proper conduct of remote judicial acts.	Criminal	Published
33	Italy	IT	Criminal Procedure code	Article 133-ter	When a court orders a remote act or hearing, it must issue a reasoned decree served to the parties at least three days in advance, establishing an audiovisual link that ensures effective, reciprocal participation and safeguards the adversarial process. Participants generally connect from designated judicial or police offices, with provisions to ensure identity verification, confidentiality for lawyers, and proper recording of the proceedings to guarantee procedural regularity.	Criminal	Published
34	Italy	IT	Legislative decree no. 108, 07/21/2017	Article 18	The request for a videoconference hearing of suspects, accused, witnesses, or experts requires agreement on hearing modalities, including protective measures, and the consent of the suspect or accused. The hearing is conducted under the issuing authority's direction, ensuring legal principles are respected, with proper identification, notification, interpretation, and the hearing minutes sent back to the issuing authority, while relevant criminal procedure rules apply.	Criminal	Published
35	Lithuania	LT	Criminal Procedure code	Article 8bis	General framework for holding criminal hearings remotely	Criminal	Published
36	Lithuania	LT	Criminal Procedure code	Article 183.4	Questioning of a witness by videoconference	Criminal	Published
37	Lithuania	LT	Criminal Procedure code	Article 246.1	Hearing of an accused by videoconference during the main hearing	Criminal	Published

38	Lithuania	LT	Criminal Procedure code	Article 285	Concerns the hearing of experts	Criminal	Published
39	Luxembourg	LU	The Law of August 1, 2018	Article 34	It regulates the hearing by videoconference of witnesses, experts, suspects, or accused persons within the framework of a European Investigation Order in Luxembourg. It specifies the necessary technical, legal, and procedural conditions, including the consent of the parties, respect for fundamental rights, coordination between states, and the drafting of a report after the hearing.	Criminal	Published
40	Luxembourg	LU	The Law of August 1, 2018	Article 35	It regulates the hearings by teleconference of witnesses or experts within the framework of a European Investigation Order, when their personal appearance in Luxembourg is impractical or impossible. It specifies the practical arrangements to be agreed upon between the Luxembourg authorities and those of the issuing state, ensuring the identification of persons, respect for fundamental rights, and the transmission of a detailed report following the hearing.	Criminal	Published
41	Latvia	LV	Criminal Procedure law	Section 140	It authorizes the conduct of investigative acts by technical means (teleconference or videoconference) when the interests of the criminal procedure require it, ensuring the identification of participants, respect for procedural rights, and proper coordination between the locations involved. These actions must be duly documented by reports or certificates, according to the procedural rules applicable to the preliminary phase or the trial.	Criminal	Published
42	Latvia	LV	Criminal Procedure law	Section 851	It regulates international judicial cooperation and authorizes the execution of procedural acts using technical means. Any person entitled to a defense may be heard by videoconference with their express consent.	Criminal	Published
43	Malta	MT	Criminal Code	Article 649 §6 to §12	It regulates the hearing by videoconference of a witness, expert, or accused at the request of a foreign authority. The Maltese magistrate organizes the hearing, ensures the identification of the person being heard and the respect of the fundamental principles of Maltese law, while guaranteeing the rights not to testify according to Maltese or foreign laws; a detailed record is made and sent to the foreign authority. The hearing of an accused may only take place with their consent, and Maltese evidentiary rules apply as if the testimony were given in a domestic proceeding.	Criminal	Published
44	Netherlands	NL	Code of Criminal Procedure	Article 131a	Permits videoconferencing for hearings, unless excluded by decree, if a direct image and sound link is used. The judge or official in charge decides based on the investigation's needs, after hearing the views of those involved. The decision cannot be appealed. Technical standards and oversight are set by administrative order.	Criminal	Published

45	Netherlands	NL	Criminal Code	Article 78a	Permits videoconferencing for hearings, unless excluded by decree, if a direct image and sound link is used. The judge or official in charge decides based on the investigation's needs, after hearing the views of those involved. The decision cannot be appealed. Technical standards and oversight are set by administrative order.	Criminal	Under change from 07/01/2025
46	Netherlands	NL	Criminal Code	Article 207b	Knowingly making a false statement under oath by videoconference before a foreign court is punishable by up to six years in prison or a fine. Prosecution requires a complaint from that court, and certain standard complaint rules do not apply.	Criminal	Under change from 07/01/2025
47	Netherlands	NL	Videoconferencing Decision	Article 2 &3	Article 2 restricts the use of videoconferencing without the accused's or counsel's consent during detention hearings and substantive hearings before a three-judge chamber, or when impairments affect participation, except if judges find it necessary for security reasons. Article 3 requires the summons to inform about videoconferencing and how to object; objections must be made in writing with reasons and decided promptly, with the decision communicated at least 24 hours before the hearing. If no summons is sent, objections can be made at the hearing's start and decided by the official in charge.	Administrative	Published
48	Poland	PL	Criminal Procedure code	Article 177 §1a	A witness may be questioned remotely using audio-visual technology. During preparatory proceedings, a representative from the prosecutor's office must be present with the witness. In court proceedings, a representative from the local court where the witness resides must be present.	Criminal	Published, until 30 September 2028
49	Portugal	PT	Law on International Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters (Law no. 144/99, 08/30/1999)	Article 145 §3	When circumstances require, hearings of suspects, accused persons, witnesses, or experts may be conducted in real time by means of telecommunication. This possibility is subject to the existence of an agreement between Portugal and a foreign state or an international judicial entity.	Criminal	Published
50	Portugal	PT	Civil Procedural Code	Article 502	Witnesses living outside the court's municipality can testify either in person (if declared in advance) or remotely via real-time audio-visual technology from designated public locations. These locations are defined through agreements between the Ministry of Justice and local authorities. The court sets the hearing date after coordinating with the location hosting the witness. On the day, the witness identifies themselves to a local official, but the questioning is conducted remotely by the case judge and parties. Witnesses abroad may also testify remotely if the necessary technology is available. In Lisbon and Porto, remote testimony is not allowed for local witnesses, except in specific cases under Article 520.	Civil	Published

51	Romania	RO	Law No. 302/2004 on International Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters	Article 235	Allows the hearing by videoconference of witnesses, experts, suspects, or accused persons located in Romania or abroad when their personal appearance is inappropriate or impossible, provided that Romanian fundamental rights and procedural guarantees are respected. The hearing takes place in the presence of the competent judicial authorities, may include protective measures, is documented by a record, and the costs are borne by the requesting state unless expressly waived.	Criminal	Published
52	Sweden	SE	Act 2017 :1000 on a European Investigation Order	Chapter 3, Section 2	A remote hearing is only possible for a witness, a civil party or an expert. For a suspect or a protected person, their consent is required.	Judicial	Published
53	Sweden	SE	Swedish Constitution	Chapter 5, section 10	Individuals required to attend a court hearing must appear in person unless the court permits participation via audio or video transmission due to factors like cost, fear, coercion, or security concerns. Such remote participation is considered equivalent to physical presence, provided it aligns with the hearing's purpose and circumstances.	Constitutionnal	Published
54	Sweden	SE	International Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (2000:562)	Chapter 4, article 11	Legal assistance requests for video conference hearings involving a person in Sweden are handled by a district court with the necessary technical capabilities, and the accused must consent to the hearing, with such consent included in the request. In trial proceedings, the matter is treated as evidence-taking outside the main hearing, and during preliminary investigations, such requests are managed by a prosecutor.	Criminal	Published
55	Sweden	SE	International Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (2000:562)	Chapter 4, article 12	A witness or expert participating in a video conference may have a suitable person present for support, and the court may appoint such a person if requested or deemed necessary. Provisions from the Legal Aid Act and the Code of Judicial Procedure apply to the role and assistance of counsel.	Criminal	Published
56	Sweden	SE	International Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (2000:562)	Chapter 4, article 13	A Swedish court may request a video conference hearing with a person in another state if permitted under Swedish law and supported by an international agreement or the other state's willingness to provide such assistance, with the accused's consent included in the request. Similarly, a prosecutor may request such assistance during a preliminary investigation under the same conditions.	Criminal	Published

57	Slovenia	SI	Criminal Procedure Act	Article 244a	Authorizes the hearing of an accused, witness, or expert by videoconference when their physical appearance is dangerous, impossible, or inappropriate, particularly in cases of witness protection, anonymity, international cooperation, or other legitimate reasons. The videoconference interrogation must comply with usual procedural rules, include the presence of an official to verify identity, and follow specific technical instructions issued by the Minister of Justice to regulate the use of these methods.	Criminal	Published
58	Slovenia	SI	Act amending and supplementing the Act on Cooperation in Criminal Matters with the Member States of the European Union	Article 77c	A European Investigation Order (EIO) may be issued to hear a witness, expert, suspect, or accused person via videoconference if allowed under criminal procedure law. If the executing state lacks the necessary technology, Slovenia may provide it by mutual agreement.	Criminal	Published
59	Slovenia	SI	Act amending and supplementing the Act on Cooperation in Criminal Matters with the Member States of the European Union	Article 77.č	An investigating judge in Slovenia decides on executing a European Investigation Order (EIO) for videoconference questioning of a witness, expert, suspect, or accused, following criminal procedure law. The EIO will be refused if the suspect or accused does not consent, and the judge coordinates practical arrangements with the issuing authority, ensuring proper invitations, rights notifications, identity verification, and adherence to procedural rules for conducting and recording the hearing.	Criminal	Published
60	Slovenia	SI	Act amending and supplementing the Act on Cooperation in Criminal Matters with the Member States of the European Union	Article 77d	With the meaningful application of the provisions of Articles 77c and 77č of this Act, a European Investigation Order issued for the purpose of questioning a witness or expert via telephone conference may also be issued and recognised or executed.	Criminal	Published
61	Slovakia	SK	Act on the European Investigation Order in Criminal Matters and on Amendments to Certain Acts	Article 25	If conditions for executing a European Investigation Order (EIO) are met, Slovak judicial authorities must allow a video hearing of a suspect, accused, witness, or expert located in Slovakia. The hearing is refused if the suspect or accused does not consent or if the method conflicts with fundamental principles of Slovak law. The Slovak authority coordinates logistics, ensures identity verification, informs the person of their rights, and oversees the hearing to ensure legal compliance—suspending or terminating it if violations occur.	Criminal	Published
62	Slovakia	SK	Act on the European Investigation Order in Criminal Matters and on Amendments to Certain Acts	Article 26	If a witness or expert in Slovakia is to be questioned under a European Investigation Order and video or other suitable methods are not possible or appropriate, the hearing may be conducted via telephone conference. The rules from § 25 apply accordingly.	Criminal	Published
63	Cyprus	CY	The European Investigation Order in Criminal Matters Laws	Article 25, part V	Authorizes the Cypriot authorities to issue a European Investigation Order to question a witness, expert, suspect, or accused person located abroad by videoconference or any other individual means. However, execution may be refused if the person concerned does not consent or if the measure violates the fundamental principles of Cypriot law.	Criminal	Published

64	European Union	EU	Regulation 2023/2844 on the digitalisation of judicial cooperation and access to justice in cross-border civil, commercial and criminal matters	Recital 4	This Regulation aims to improve justice efficiency and access by digitalising communication, reducing delays, costs, and administrative burdens, while enhancing security, privacy, and cross-border cooperation in criminal cases.	Judicial	Published
65	European Union	EU	Regulation 2023/2844 on the digitalisation of judicial cooperation and access to justice in cross-border civil, commercial and criminal matters	Recital 42	In criminal cases, the law of the Member State requesting and conducting the hearing via videoconferencing or other remote technology should apply. This state is considered the one initiating and managing the remote hearing.	Judicial	Published
66	European Union	EU	Regulation 2023/2844 on the digitalisation of judicial cooperation and access to justice in cross-border civil, commercial and criminal matters	Article 6(1)	The Article establishes its applicability to judicial cooperation procedures under six specific EU instruments, each dealing with aspects such as arrest warrants, prisoner transfers, probation, supervision, protection orders, and asset freezing/confiscation.	Judicial	Published
67	European Union	EU	Regulation 2023/2844 on the digitalisation of judicial cooperation and access to justice in cross-border civil, commercial and criminal matters	Article 6(2)	If a person (suspect, accused, convicted or affected) is in another Member State, they can be heard via videoconference if : 1) The case justifies it, and 2) The person gives informed, voluntary consent after being advised of their rights and consulting lawyer if needed. Consent must be verified and recorded. Exception: COnsent isn't required if in-person hearings pose a serious public security or health risk, provided fair trials rights are upheld.	Judicial	Published
68	European Union	EU	Directive 2014/41/UE regarding the European Investigation Order in criminal matters	Article 3	The EIO covers all investigative measures except setting up or gathering evidence within joint investigation teams—unless the request specifically invokes Article 13(8) of the Convention or Article 1(8) of the 2002/465/JHA Framework Decision.	Judicial	Published
69	European Union	EU	Directive 2014/41/UE regarding the European Investigation Order in criminal matters	Article 24	An EIO allows a person in another Member State to be heard by videoconference. The issuing and executing authorities must agree on arrangements. Consent is needed from suspects or accused persons, and the request can be refused if it violates the executing State's fundamental legal principles. The hearing is led by the issuing State, while the executing State ensures legal safeguards. A record is made after the hearing, and national law applies if the person refuses to testify or lies.	Judicial	Published
70	European Union	EU	Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters between the Member States of the European Union of 29 May 2000	Article 10	A Member State can request to hear a witness or expert in another Member State by videoconference if in-person attendance isn't possible and legal principles are respected. The requested State must agree if it has the means. The requesting State conducts the hearing; the requested State ensures identity, rights, and legal safeguards. Costs are covered by the requesting State. National law applies if the person refuses to testify or lies. Hearings of accused persons require their consent and agreement between States, and a State may opt out of this option.	Judicial	Published

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