



65.30 Closed-circuit television; special testimonial [procedure] PROCEDURES.

S 65.00 Definitions.

As used in this article:

1. "Child witness" means a person fourteen years old or less who is or will be called to testify in a criminal proceeding, other than a grand jury proceeding, concerning an offense defined in article one hundred thirty of the penal law or section 255.25, 255.26 or 255.27 of such law which is the subject of such criminal proceeding.

2. "DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM WITNESS" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS A VICTIM OF A FAMILY OFFENSE, AS DEFINED IN SUBDIVISION ONE OF SECTION 530.11 OF THIS CHAPTER, OR AN OFFENSE COMMITTED BY A MEMBER OF SUCH INDIVIDUAL'S IMMEDIATE FAMILY AS DEFINED IN SUBDIVISION FOUR OF SECTION 120.40 OF THE PENAL LAW.

3. "Vulnerable [child] witness" means a child witness OR A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM WITNESS whom a court has declared to be vulnerable.

[3.] 4. "Testimonial room" means any room, separate and apart from the courtroom, which is furnished comfortably and less formally than a courtroom and from which the testimony of a vulnerable child witness can be transmitted to the courtroom by means of live, two-way closed-circuit television.

[4.] 5. "Live, two-way closed-circuit television" means a simultaneous transmission, by closed-circuit television, or other electronic means, between the courtroom and the testimonial room in accordance with the provisions of section 65.30 OF THIS ARTICLE.

[5.] 6. "Operator" means the individual authorized by the court to operate the closed-circuit television equipment used in accordance with the provisions of this article.

[6.] 7. A person occupies "a position of authority with respect to a child" when he or she is a parent, guardian or other person responsible for the custody or care of [the] A child at the relevant time or is any other person who maintains an ongoing personal relationship with such parent, guardian or other person responsible for custody or care, which relationship involves his or her living, or his or her frequent and repeated presence, in the same household or premises as the child.

S 65.10 Closed-circuit television; general rule; declaration of vulnerability.

1. A child witness OR A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM WITNESS shall be declared vulnerable when the court, in accordance with the provisions of section 65.20 OF THIS ARTICLE, determines by clear and convincing evidence that it is likely that such child witness OR SUCH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM WITNESS will suffer serious mental or emotional harm if required to testify at a criminal proceeding without the use of live, two-way closed-circuit television and that the use of such live, two-way closed-circuit television will diminish the likelihood or extent of, such harm.

2. When the court declares a child witness OR A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM WITNESS to be vulnerable, it shall, except as provided in subdivision four of section 65.30 OF THIS ARTICLE, authorize the taking of the testimony of the vulnerable [child] witness from the testimonial room by means of live, two-way closed-circuit television. Under no circumstances shall the provisions of this article be construed to authorize a closed-circuit television system by which events in the courtroom are not transmitted to the testimonial room during the testimony of the vulnerable [child] witness.

1 3. Nothing [herein] IN THIS ARTICLE shall be [contrued] CONSTRUED to  
2 preclude the court from exercising its power to close the courtroom or  
3 from exercising any authority it otherwise may have to protect the well-  
4 being of a witness and the rights of the defendant.

5 S 65.20 Closed-circuit television; procedure for application and grounds  
6 for determination.

7 1. Prior to the commencement of a criminal proceeding[;], other than a  
8 grand jury proceeding, either party may apply to the court for an order  
9 declaring that a child witness OR A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM WITNESS is  
10 vulnerable.

11 2. A child witness OR A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM WITNESS should be  
12 declared vulnerable when the court, in accordance with the provisions of  
13 this section, determines by clear and convincing evidence that the child  
14 witness OR THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM WITNESS would suffer serious  
15 mental or emotional harm that would substantially impair the child  
16 witness' OR THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM WITNESS' ability to communicate  
17 with the finder of fact without the use of live, two-way closed-circuit  
18 television.

19 3. A motion pursuant to subdivision one of this section must be made  
20 in writing at least eight days before the commencement of trial or other  
21 criminal proceeding upon reasonable notice to the other party and with  
22 an opportunity to be heard.

23 4. The motion papers must state the basis for the motion and must  
24 contain sworn allegations of fact which, if true, would support a deter-  
25 mination by the court that the child witness OR THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
26 VICTIM WITNESS is vulnerable. Such allegations may be based upon the  
27 personal knowledge of the deponent or upon information and belief,  
28 provided that, in the latter event, the sources of such information and  
29 the grounds for such belief are stated.

30 5. The answering papers may admit or deny any of the alleged facts and  
31 may, in addition, contain sworn allegations of fact relevant to the  
32 motion, including the rights of the defendant, the need to protect the  
33 child witness OR THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM WITNESS and the integrity  
34 of the truth-finding function of the trier of fact.

35 6. Unless all material facts alleged in support of the motion made  
36 pursuant to subdivision one of this section are conceded, the court  
37 shall, in addition to examining the papers and hearing oral argument,  
38 conduct an appropriate hearing for the purpose of making findings of  
39 fact essential to the determination of the motion. Except as provided in  
40 subdivision [six] SEVEN of this section, it may subpoena or call and  
41 examine witnesses, who must either testify under oath or be permitted to  
42 give unsworn testimony pursuant to subdivision two of section 60.20 OF  
43 THIS ARTICLE and must authorize the attorneys for the parties to do the  
44 same.

45 7. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the child witness OR  
46 THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM WITNESS who is alleged to be vulnerable may  
47 not be compelled to testify at such hearing or to submit to any psycho-  
48 logical or psychiatric examination. The failure of the child witness OR  
49 THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM WITNESS to testify at such hearing shall  
50 not be a ground for denying a motion made pursuant to subdivision one of  
51 this section. Prior statements made by the child witness relating to any  
52 allegations of conduct constituting an offense defined in article one  
53 hundred thirty of the penal law or incest as defined in section 255.25,  
54 255.26 or 255.27 of such law, or PRIOR STATEMENTS MADE BY THE CHILD  
55 WITNESS OR THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM WITNESS RELATING to any allega-  
56 tion of words or conduct constituting an attempt to prevent, impede or

1 deter [the child] SUCH witness from cooperating in the investigation or  
2 prosecution of the offense shall be admissible at such hearing,  
3 provided, however, that a declaration that a child witness OR A DOMESTIC  
4 VIOLENCE VICTIM WITNESS is vulnerable may not be based solely upon such  
5 prior statements.

6 8. (a) Notwithstanding any of the provisions of article forty-five of  
7 the civil practice law and rules, any physician, psychologist, nurse or  
8 social worker who has treated a child witness OR A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
9 VICTIM WITNESS may testify at a hearing conducted pursuant to subdivi-  
10 sion [five] SIX of this section concerning the treatment of such child  
11 witness OR SUCH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM WITNESS as such treatment  
12 relates to the issue presented at the hearing, provided that any other-  
13 wise applicable statutory privileges concerning communications between  
14 the child witness OR THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM WITNESS and such  
15 physician, psychologist, nurse or social worker in connection with such  
16 treatment shall not be deemed waived by such testimony alone, except to  
17 the limited extent of permitting the court alone to examine in camera  
18 reports, records or documents, if any, prepared by such physician,  
19 psychologist, nurse or social worker. If upon such examination the court  
20 determines that such reports, records or documents, or any one or  
21 portion thereof, contain information material and relevant to the issue  
22 of whether the child witness OR THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM WITNESS is  
23 a vulnerable [child] witness, the court shall disclose such information  
24 to both the attorney for the defendant and the district attorney.

25 (b) At any time after a motion has been made pursuant to subdivision  
26 one of this section, upon the demand of the other party the moving party  
27 must furnish the demanding party with a copy of any and all of such  
28 records, reports or other documents in the possession of such other  
29 party and must, in addition, supply the court with a copy of all such  
30 reports, records or other documents which are the subject of the demand.  
31 At any time after a demand has been made pursuant to this paragraph, the  
32 moving party may demand that property of the same kind or character in  
33 possession of the party that originally made such demand be furnished to  
34 the moving party and, if so furnished, be supplied, in addition, to the  
35 court.

36 9. (a) Prior to the commencement of the hearing conducted pursuant to  
37 subdivision five of this section, the district attorney shall, subject  
38 to a protective order, comply with the provisions of subdivision one of  
39 section 240.45 of this chapter as they concern any witness whom the  
40 district attorney intends to call at the hearing and the child witness  
41 OR THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM WITNESS.

42 (b) Before a defendant calls a witness at such hearing, he or she  
43 must, subject to a protective order, comply with the provisions of  
44 subdivision two of section 240.45 of this chapter as they concern all  
45 the witnesses the defendant intends to call at such hearing.

46 10. The court may consider, in determining whether there are factors  
47 which would cause the child witness OR THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM  
48 WITNESS to suffer serious mental or emotional harm, a finding that any  
49 one or more of the following circumstances have been established by  
50 clear and convincing evidence:

51 (a) The manner of the commission of the offense of which the defendant  
52 is accused was particularly heinous or was characterized by aggravating  
53 circumstances.

54 (b) The child witness OR THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM WITNESS is  
55 particularly young or otherwise particularly subject to psychological

1 harm on account of a physical or mental condition which existed before  
2 the alleged commission of the offense.

3 (c) At the time of the alleged offense, the defendant occupied a posi-  
4 tion of authority with respect to the child witness.

5 (d) The offense or offenses charged were part of an ongoing course of  
6 conduct committed by the defendant against the child witness OR THE  
7 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM WITNESS over an extended period of time.

8 (e) A deadly weapon or dangerous instrument was allegedly used during  
9 the commission of the crime.

10 (f) The defendant has inflicted serious physical injury upon the child  
11 witness OR THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM WITNESS.

12 (g) A threat, express or implied, of physical violence to the child  
13 witness OR THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM WITNESS, or a third person if  
14 [the child] SUCH witness were to report the incident to any person or  
15 communicate information to or cooperate with a court, grand jury, prose-  
16 cutor, police officer or peace officer concerning the incident has been  
17 made by or on behalf of the defendant.

18 (h) A threat, express or implied, of the incarceration of a parent or  
19 guardian of the child witness OR THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM WITNESS,  
20 the removal of the child witness OR THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM WITNESS  
21 from the family or the dissolution of the family of the child witness OR  
22 THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM WITNESS if [the child] SUCH witness were to  
23 report the incident to any person or communicate information to or coop-  
24 erate with a court, grand jury, prosecutor, police officer or peace  
25 officer concerning the incident has been made by or on behalf of the  
26 defendant.

27 (i) A witness other than the child witness OR THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
28 VICTIM WITNESS has received a threat of physical violence directed at  
29 such witness or to a third person by or on behalf of the defendant.

30 (j) The defendant, at the time of the inquiry, (i) is living in the  
31 same household with the child witness OR THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM  
32 WITNESS, (ii) has ready access to the child witness OR THE DOMESTIC  
33 VIOLENCE VICTIM WITNESS or (iii) is providing substantial financial  
34 support for the child witness OR THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM WITNESS.

35 (k) The child witness OR THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WITNESS has previously  
36 been the victim of an offense defined in article one hundred thirty of  
37 the penal law or incest as defined in section 255.25, 255.26 or 255.27  
38 of such law.

39 (l) According to expert testimony, the child witness OR THE DOMESTIC  
40 VIOLENCE VICTIM WITNESS would be particularly [suceptible] SUSCEPTIBLE  
41 to psychological harm if required to testify in open court or in the  
42 physical presence of the defendant.

43 11. Irrespective of whether a motion was made pursuant to subdivision  
44 one of this section, the court, at the request of either party or on its  
45 own motion, may decide that a child witness OR A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
46 VICTIM WITNESS may be vulnerable based on its own observations that a  
47 child witness OR A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM WITNESS who has been called  
48 to testify at a criminal proceeding is suffering severe mental or  
49 emotional harm and therefore is physically or mentally unable to testify  
50 or to continue to testify in open court or in the physical presence of  
51 the defendant and that the use of live, two-way closed-circuit tele-  
52 vision is necessary to enable [the child] SUCH witness to testify. If  
53 the court so decides, it must conduct the same hearing that subdivision  
54 [five] SIX of this section requires when a motion is made pursuant to  
55 subdivision one of this section, and it must make findings of fact  
56 pursuant to subdivisions [nine and eleven] TEN AND TWELVE of this

1 section, before determining that the child witness OR THE DOMESTIC  
2 VIOLENCE VICTIM WITNESS is vulnerable.

3 12. In deciding whether a child witness OR A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM  
4 WITNESS is vulnerable, the court shall make findings of fact which  
5 reflect the causal relationship between the existence of any one or more  
6 of the factors set forth in subdivision [nine] TEN of this section or  
7 other relevant factors which the court finds are established and the  
8 determination that the child witness OR THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM  
9 WITNESS is vulnerable. If the court is satisfied that the child witness  
10 OR THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM WITNESS is vulnerable and that, under  
11 the facts and circumstances of the particular case, the defendant's  
12 constitutional rights to an impartial jury or of confrontation will not  
13 be impaired, it may enter an order granting the application for the use  
14 of live, two-way closed-circuit television.

15 13. When the court has determined that a child witness OR A DOMESTIC  
16 VIOLENCE VICTIM WITNESS is a vulnerable [child] witness, it shall make a  
17 specific finding as to whether placing the defendant and the child  
18 witness OR THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM WITNESS in the same room during  
19 the testimony of the child witness OR THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM  
20 WITNESS will contribute to the likelihood that [the child] SUCH witness  
21 will suffer severe mental or emotional harm. If the court finds that  
22 placing the defendant and the child witness OR THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
23 VICTIM WITNESS in the same room during the testimony of the child  
24 witness OR THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM WITNESS will contribute to the  
25 likelihood that [the child] SUCH witness will suffer severe mental or  
26 emotional harm, the order entered pursuant to subdivision [eleven]  
27 TWELVE of this section shall direct that the defendant remain in the  
28 courtroom during the testimony of the vulnerable [child] witness.  
29 S 65.30 Closed-circuit television; special testimonial procedures.

30 1. When the court has entered an order pursuant to section 65.20 OF  
31 THIS ARTICLE, the testimony of the vulnerable [child] witness shall be  
32 taken in the testimonial room and the image and voice of the vulnerable  
33 [child] witness, as well as the image of all other persons other than  
34 the operator present in the testimonial room, shall be transmitted live  
35 by means of closed-circuit television to the courtroom. The courtroom  
36 shall be equipped with monitors sufficient to permit the judge, jury,  
37 defendant and attorneys to observe the demeanor of the vulnerable  
38 [child] witness during his or her testimony. Unless the courtroom has  
39 been closed pursuant to court order, the public shall also be permitted  
40 to hear the testimony and view the image of the vulnerable [child]  
41 witness.

42 2. In all instances, the image of the jury shall be simultaneously  
43 transmitted to the vulnerable [child] witness in the testimonial room.  
44 If the court order issued pursuant to section 65.20 OF THIS ARTICLE  
45 specifies that the vulnerable [child] witness shall testify outside the  
46 physical presence of the defendant, the image of the defendant and the  
47 image and voice of the person examining the vulnerable [child] witness  
48 shall also be simultaneously transmitted to the vulnerable [child]  
49 witness in the testimonial room.

50 3. The operator shall place herself or himself and the closed-circuit  
51 television equipment in a position that permits the entire testimony of  
52 the vulnerable [child] witness to be transmitted to the courtroom but  
53 limits the ability of the vulnerable [child] witness to see or hear the  
54 operator or the equipment.

55 4. Notwithstanding any provision of this article, if the court in a  
56 particular case involving a vulnerable [child] witness determines that

1 there is no live, two-way closed-circuit television equipment available  
2 in the court or another court in the county or which can be transported  
3 to the court from another county or that such equipment, if available,  
4 is technologically inadequate to protect the constitutional rights of  
5 the defendant, it shall not permit the use of the closed-circuit tele-  
6 vision procedures authorized by this article.

7 5. If the order of the court entered pursuant to section 65.20 OF THIS  
8 ARTICLE requires that the defendant remain in the courtroom, the attor-  
9 ney for the defendant and the district attorney shall also remain in the  
10 courtroom unless the court is satisfied that their presence in the  
11 testimonial room will not impede full and private communication between  
12 the defendant and his or her attorney and will not encourage the jury to  
13 draw an inference adverse to the interest of the defendant.

14 6. Upon request of the defendant, the court shall instruct the jury  
15 that they are to draw no inference from the use of live, two-way closed-  
16 circuit television in the examination of the vulnerable [child] witness.

17 7. The vulnerable [child] witness shall testify under oath except as  
18 specified in subdivision two of section 60.20 OF THIS ARTICLE. The exam-  
19 ination and cross-examination of the vulnerable [child] witness shall,  
20 in all other respects, be conducted in the same manner as if the vulner-  
21 able [child] witness had testified in the courtroom.

22 8. When the testimony of the vulnerable [child] witness is transmitted  
23 from the testimonial room into the courtroom, the court stenographer  
24 shall record the [textimony] TESTIMONY in the same manner as if the  
25 vulnerable [child] witness had testified in the courtroom.

26 S 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall apply to all  
27 criminal actions and proceedings commenced prior to the effective date  
28 of this act but still pending on such date as well as all criminal  
29 actions and proceedings commenced on or after such effective date.  
30 Provided that the amendments to article 65 of the criminal procedure  
31 law, made by section one of this act, shall not affect the expiration  
32 and repeal of such article and shall be deemed repealed therewith.