

**No. 7 of 2021**

**VIRGIN ISLANDS**

**AUDIO VISUAL LINK (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2021**

**ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS**

*Section*

1. Short title.
2. Amendment of section 3.
3. Insertion of Section 3A.
4. Amendment of Schedule.

**I Assent**  
**(Sgd.) John Rankin, CMG**  
**Governor.**  
**6th April, 2021**

**VIRGIN ISLANDS**

**No. 7 of 2021**

An Act to amend the Audio Visual Link Act, 2017 (No. 25 of 2017).

[Gazetted 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2021]

ENACTED by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands as follows

Short title.

**1.** This Act may be cited as the Audio Visual Link (Amendment) Act, 2021.

Amendment of  
section 3.  
No. 25 of 2017

**2.** The Audio Visual Act, 2017 (hereinafter referred to as the “principal Act”) is amended in section 3 by repealing subsection (1)(e) and replacing with the following:

“(e) to hearings of any civil or criminal proceedings in or before any court in the Virgin Islands including appeals to such matters and proceedings relating to protection orders, domestic violence matters, traffic and juvenile offences;

(ea) to commercial litigation proceedings;”

Insertion of  
section 3A.

**3.** The principal Act is amended by inserting after section 3 the following section:

“Use of Audio  
Visual Link  
during  
emergencies.

“**3A.** (1) For the purposes of this Act, Audio Visual Link may be used where

- (a) a period of public emergency has been declared pursuant to section 27 of the Virgin Islands Constitution Order, 2007; or U.K. S.I. 2007 No. 1678
- (b) there exists a health emergency or public health emergency of local, regional or international concern in the territory, such as an epidemic or a pandemic, and health measures under the Public Health Act, the Quarantine Act, 2014 the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 2013 or any other related enactment are or may be enforced. Cap. 197 No. 10 of 2014 No. 2 of 2013

(2) Where a public emergency or a health emergency as provided under subsection (1) arises, the Chief Justice may make Regulations specifically relating to the use of Audio Visual Link during such emergencies.”

**4.** The Schedule to the principal Act is amended by inserting after paragraph 3(a) the following new subparagraph: Amendment of Schedule.

“(aa) the request or consent of any party to the proceedings to use Audio visual link.”

Passed by the House of Assembly this 9<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021.

(Sgd.) Julian Willock,  
Speaker.

(Sgd.) Phyllis Evans,  
Clerk of the House of Assembly.