

1 AN ACT concerning health.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Mental Health and Developmental  
5 Disabilities Code is amended by adding Section 3-806.1 as  
6 follows:

7 (405 ILCS 5/3-806.1 new)

8 Sec. 3-806.1. Video conferencing.

9 (a) Notwithstanding the provisions in Section 3-806, the  
10 Illinois Supreme Court or any circuit court of this State may  
11 adopt rules permitting the use of video conferencing equipment  
12 in all hearings under this Chapter subject to the following  
13 provisions:

14 (1) Such hearings are permitted if the parties,  
15 including the respondent, and their lawyers, including the  
16 State's Attorney, are at a mental health facility, or some  
17 other location to which the respondent may be safely and  
18 conveniently transported, and the judge and any court  
19 personnel are in another location.

20 (2) Such hearings are permitted if the respondent and  
21 his or her counsel are at a mental health facility or some  
22 other location to which the respondent may be safely and  
23 conveniently transported, and all of the other

1 participants including the judge are in another location,  
2 if, and only if, agreed to by the respondent and the  
3 respondent's counsel.

4 (3) Video conferencing under this subsection (a) shall  
5 not be permitted in a jury trial under Section 3-802 of  
6 this Article.

7 (b) Notwithstanding the above provisions, any court may  
8 permit any witness, including a psychiatrist, to testify by  
9 video conferencing equipment from any location in the absence  
10 of a court rule specifically prohibiting such testimony.