

## **Adults**

### **Children's Hearing Court**

#### **Using a Screen**

Using a screen is one of a number of 'special measures' that can be used to help vulnerable witnesses give their evidence to the court.

But remember, that special measures are only available for particularly vulnerable witnesses and requires a special application to the court for their approval.

If you are regarded as a vulnerable witness under the terms of the legislation, and the person who asked you to be a witness believes that your evidence might be affected by seeing another person involved in the case, using a screen in the courtroom may help you to give your evidence.

This might be a barrier or a curtain or a room divider. The important thing is that you won't be able to see that person – you'll still be able to see the Sheriff, the children's reporter, lawyers and the other court staff.

Is important for you to know that the other people on the other side of the screen in the courtroom will be able to see and hear you indirectly through a court television monitor when you are giving your evidence.

If you need additional support, you may also be allowed to have a "supporter" to sit with you as an additional special measure. They will sit near you in the courtroom when you are giving your evidence. You can suggest someone as your support person and the court will consider this.

You'll be asked questions to enable you to give all of your evidence. Depending on the case and the evidence you are to give, some of the questions may be upsetting - just take your time and tell the truth.

If at any time, you don't understand something, ask the person to explain the question. You should always make sure you understand the question before you answer it. Don't just guess.

Being a witness is very important. The court want to make sure you can give your evidence as best you can.