

Adults

Children's Hearing Court

Using a Supporter

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

As with all special measures, this is only available for vulnerable witnesses and requires a special application to the court for their approval.

A 'supporter' is someone who supports you just by being present when you are giving your evidence to the court. This may help you feel less anxious.

They cannot help you with your evidence and must never prompt or try to influence your evidence in any way.

If the children's reporter or the lawyer who asked you to be a witness is making an application for you to use this special measure, you can tell them who you would like as your supporter and the court will consider this. However, it cannot be someone who is also a witness in the case, unless they have already given their evidence.

You may wish a friend to act as your supporter. Alternatively you may be receiving support from an organization which would be able to provide someone to be your supporter.

But it is always important to remember that a supporter cannot help you with your actual evidence and cannot answer any questions for you.

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