

Children

Criminal Court

Having a Support Person

Having a support person is a 'special measure' that can help some young witnesses to give their evidence.

Using a support person is a special measure that can help some young witnesses to give their evidence.

A 'support person' is an adult who can sit with you when you are being asked question by the court. They are sometimes called 'supporters'.

They will sit with you but they cannot help you answer any of the questions.

If you are going to use a screen in the courtroom or use a live TV link from another room outside the courtroom, you will be asked if you would also like to have a supporter with you.

If you don't want to use a screen or a TV link, you may still want to have a supporter. You can ask the person who asked you to be a witness if the court will let you have this.

You can help to choose someone to sit with you and be your supporter; maybe someone you met from the Witness Service, or a teacher; or maybe a social worker. Perhaps you would like someone from your family to be with you. Have a think about this.

The person who asked you to be a witness will help you choose.

Always remember that your supporter cannot tell you what to say to the court and cannot answer any of the questions for you.

Being a witness is very important, the court can only make a decision about what has happened, with the help of information from witnesses like you.