

Children

Criminal Court

Taking Evidence by a Commissioner

Taking Evidence by a commissioner, is a special measure that can help some young witnesses to give their evidence

The court might decide that you should tell them what you know at a different time or in a different place from the other witnesses.

The court might decide that you need to tell them what you know before the rest of the court case starts.

This is called "Taking Evidence by a commissioner.

The person asking you to be a witness has to make a special application to the court to use this special measure. If they would like to do this they will talk to you about what it means.

Sometimes the room where you give your evidence may be like a large meeting room, or you might need to give your evidence in the courtroom, - the person who asked you to be a witness will talk to you about this.

The person in charge is called the commissioner. The commissioner's job is the same as the job of a judge or sheriff in a courtroom. The other people in the room will also have similar jobs as they do in the courtroom.

They will ask you questions to help you tell the commissioner what you know.

If your evidence is taken by a commissioner, you may also be allowed to use other ways to help you – like having an adult to sit with you as a support person.

It's hard to tell how long it will take you to tell the commissioner what you know, but, like school, the commissioner will stop for breaks and for lunch. If you feel tired or want an extra break you should tell the commissioner or the person with you.

You can talk to the person who asked you to be a witness and they will be able to tell you more about this special measure.