

Timestamp: 00:00:01:03 - 00:00:24:20

Teen: What happens when I'm called to give evidence?

Narrator: When it's time for you to give your evidence, a member of the court called an usher will come to collect you and show you where to go. That may be the courtroom. Or the live link room. If you're aged 14 or over, the usher will ask you to take an oath, which is just your promise to tell the truth while giving evidence.

Timestamp: 00:00:24:22 - 00:00:47:27

Narrator: If you're younger than 14, you won't be asked to take an oath, but you will be asked to tell the truth. This process is called 'swearing in'. If you have any difficulty with reading, that's OK. The usher will say the words first and you can repeat what they have said. Once this is done, you'll start to give your evidence.

Timestamp: 00:00:48:00 - 00:01:13:09

Teen: How do I give my evidence?

Narrator: The most important thing to remember is to tell the truth about what you know. Don't guess or make up any answers if you're unsure. You're not expected to have all the answers, just to share honestly what you remember about what happened. If you're unsure, it's OK to say 'I don't know', 'I don't understand' or 'I don't remember'.

Timestamp: 00:01:13:11 - 00:01:31:03

Narrator: If you're unsure of what you're being asked, it's OK to say, 'Can you repeat that?', 'Can you say that in a different way?' or 'Can you ask me that again a bit at a time?' If you need a drink, a break, or a toilet break, it's OK to ask for one.

Timestamp: 00:01:31:06 - 00:01:55:22

Teen: Will I be on my own when I'm giving evidence?

Narrator: You will not be alone while you're giving evidence. While your parent or guardian cannot be with you, either a Witness Service supporter or an intermediary - if you have one - can sit with you. A Witness Service supporter can be there to help you feel more comfortable, but they cannot speak to you or answer questions for you.

Timestamp: 00:01:55:24 - 00:02:20:05

Narrator: An intermediary can help you speak to the court if you do not understand any difficult terms or words used by the lawyers, or the judge or magistrates. If you're giving evidence via live video link, you can look at the person on the TV screen or look directly into the camera, whatever feels more comfortable to you.

Teen: What happens after I've given my evidence?

Timestamp: 00:02:20:07 - 00:02:38:04

Narrator: Once you've given your evidence, the judge or magistrates will say you are released. This does not mean you have been in any trouble - it's just the word the court uses to tell you you're free to go. You can leave the court building and go home, or you can go back to the waiting area and speak to a Witness Service supporter if you need to.

Timestamp: 00:02:38:05- 00:03:00:22

Narrator: You normally will not stay to watch the rest of the trial (though if you're 14 or over, you may be able to watch from the public gallery). Once the court has heard from all the witnesses, the jury (if you're at Crown Court) or the district judge or magistrates (if you're a magistrates court) will consider all the evidence and decide a verdict.

Timestamp: 00:03:00:25 - 00:03:24:23

Narrator: A verdict is the outcome of the trial in court. It will say if the defendant - the person who has been accused of the crime - is guilty or not guilty. Giving evidence as a witness is an important job. You're doing something really helpful by sharing what you know. But remember, you're not responsible for what happens in the trial or what the court decides.

Timestamp: 00:03:24:26 - 00:03:48:15

Narrator: If a not guilty verdict is returned, it does not mean you were not 'good enough' as a witness or that the court did not believe you. The court listens to many people during the trial and sometimes it can be hard for them to be really sure if someone was guilty of a crime.

Teen: How will I feel afterwards?

Narrator: You may feel tired or drained after giving evidence.

Timestamp: 00:03:48:22 - 00:04:06:20

Narrator: You may experience different emotions, too. This is completely normal, and whatever you feel is OK and valid. If you need support with how you're feeling, or if you need to talk, you can tell a Witness Service supporter or the adult you came to court with, such as your parent or guardian.