

Timestamp: 00:00:00:01 - 00:00:26:14

Joshua: Meet Olivia. Olivia has some questions about going to court as a witness. It's normal to have questions when you're going to court. Let's answer them together.

Olivia: Why am I going to court?

Joshua: If you're watching this video, you might have been asked to go to court soon. You might be a little scared or nervous, and that's OK. This video will help you understand what will happen.

Timestamp: 00:00:26:16 - 00:00:49:27

Olivia: What is a court?

Joshua: A court is a special building where people like you go to help solve problems. It's an important place where people tell their stories, ask questions, and listen carefully to find out the truth.

Yasmin: It might look different to the places you know, but it's a safe place where people work together to find out what happened.

Timestamp: 00:00:49:29 - 00:01:19:18

Yasmin: What is a witness?

Joshua: A witness is someone who knows something important. That's you. A witness tells the truth about what they saw, heard, or know. Being a witness is a very important job. Because what you know can help the people at court understand what really happened. People at court called lawyers will ask you questions, and you just need to tell them the truth about what you know.

Timestamp: 00:01:19:21 - 00:01:24:24

Joshua: What you tell the people in court is called your 'evidence'.

Timestamp: 00:01:24:27 - 00:01:47:03

Joshua: You might go into a special room in the court building called a courtroom, or you might speak to the people in the courtroom from a separate room through something called a live video link. It's just like talking to someone through a TV.

Yasmin: You can visit the court before you go there to ask questions. You can look around the empty courtroom and see where you'll sit in the waiting area.

Timestamp: 00:01:47:05 - 00:02:13:19

Yasmin: You can also try out the live video link so you know what to do on the day.

Olivia: Why do children have to give evidence?

Joshua: Many children like you give evidence at court every day and grown ups do it, too. Do you remember how you helped the police by answering their questions? Now, the people at court would like to hear a bit more from you so everyone can better understand what happened.

Timestamp: 00:02:13:22 - 00:02:37:28

Yasmin: Your words are very important. You're helping people understand the truth.

Olivia: Am I in trouble?

Joshua: No, you're not in trouble. And you have not done anything wrong. You're coming to court to help.

Yasmin: You're doing a brave thing by helping the court find out what happened.

Olivia: Who will be at court? Will they be nice?

Joshua: There will be lots of people at court who can help you.

Timestamp: 00:02:38:01 - 00:03:01:27

Joshua: You'll see a judge or magistrates. They help everyone follow the rules and make sure everything is fair. People called lawyers will ask questions so they can understand what you know. You may see a group of people called the jury who listen carefully to what everyone says, and you may see court staff who are there to help you and make sure you know where to go.

Timestamp: 00:03:02:00 - 00:03:26:18

Yasmin: You'll never be alone. You'll have a special person who will sit with you, who you can trust. This may be someone who supports witnesses like you in court called a Witness Service supporter. They can sit with you in the room, but cannot help you answer questions. Or you might have someone called an intermediary. They can help you to speak to the judge and lawyers and help explain words you don't understand.

Timestamp: 00:03:26:21 - 00:03:49:00

Olivia: What will happen when I go to court?

Joshua: When you get to the court building, you and the grown up you've come with will go through a security check. This is just to check what you've brought with you to court. You'll walk through a scanner like at an airport, but it's nothing to worry about.

Yasmin: Everyone who comes to court goes through security.

Timestamp: 00:03:49:03 - 00:03:54:12

Yasmin: You're not in trouble. It just helps to keep everyone safe.

Timestamp: 00:03:54:15 - 00:04:12:05

Joshua: You'll sit in a waiting area with the grown up who has come to court with you. People from the Witness Service will be there to help you if you need them, and the judge or magistrates and lawyer may come to visit you.

Yasmin: You might have to wait a while so you can bring a drink and snacks with you.

Timestamp: 00:04:12:08 - 00:04:31:14

Yasmin: The people at security may ask you to take a sip of your drink to show it's safe, and you can bring something like a toy, book, or game, so you don't get bored.

Joshua: When it's your turn to answer questions, someone called an usher will collect you. They'll ask you to tell the truth when you speak to the people in court.

Timestamp: 00:04:31:16 - 00:04:51:01

Joshua: If the police made a video when they spoke to you about what happened, it will be played to everyone in court. Then you'll be asked about what you remember and everyone will listen carefully to you. If you do not understand something, you can ask for help.

Yasmin: It's OK if you don't remember or don't understand. You can say this to the grown ups.

Timestamp: 00:04:51:03 - 00:05:03:28

Joshua: It's OK if you feel nervous. There's no rush. You can take your time. And if you need a break or need to go to the toilet, that's OK.

Timestamp: 00:05:04:00 - 00:05:28:09

Olivia: What if I don't know the answer?

Yasmin: If you don't know the answer, it's OK to say 'I don't know'. It's important not to guess or make up answers. Just tell the truth.

Joshua: Giving evidence at court is an important job, but there will be lots of people there to help you and keep you safe. It might seem a little scary, but you're doing something very brave and helpful.

Timestamp: 00:05:28:11 - 00:05:58:24

Joshua: Your voice is important and everyone wants to hear what you have to say.

Olivia: What happens afterwards?

Joshua: Once you've finished answering questions, you can go home. You might feel tired after going to court, and it's normal to have lots of different feelings like being sad, confused, or happy when it's over. If you think you might need extra help with how you're feeling, tell the grown up you came to court with or the person who looks after you.

Timestamp: 00:05:58:26 - 00:06:00:18

Yasmin: Whatever you're feeling is OK.