

How to make a referral

Referrals can be made directly to CWS, by either the child or young person's parent, or by an agency.

Contact the CWS coordinator on 9425 2850.

What will happen once a referral is made?

Once a child or young person is referred to the CWS, their caregiver will be contacted to arrange an appointment. The first appointment allows the caregiver/s and child or young person to visit the CWS office and meet the CWS worker.

Ongoing support and assistance will be provided until the matters before the court have been finalised.

Where you can find the Child Witness Service

Kalgoorlie

Karratha

Balmoral Road

Kununurra

Mandurah

Northam

Kalgoorlie Courthouse

KALGOORLIE WA 6430

Phone 9093 5335

Karratha Courthouse

KARRATHA WA 6714

Phone 9143 1877

Kununurra Courthouse

KUNUNURRA WA 6743

Phone 9166 7130

Mandurah Courthouse

MANDURAH WA 62010

Phone 9583 1120

Northam Courthouse

NORTHAM WA 6401

Port Hedland

Hawke Place

Rockingham

Website www.victimsofcrime.wa.gov.au

Phone

118 Wellington Street

Phone 9622 7017

South Hedland Justice Complex

9172 9313

Rockingham Justice Complex 15-17 Whitfield Street

ROCKINGHAM WA 6168

Phone 9527 7699

SOUTH HEDLAND WA 6722

333 Pinjarra Road

94 Coolibah Drive

208 Hannan Street

PERTH

Victim Support and Child Witness Service Level 2, District Court Building 500 Hay Street PERTH WA 6000

PERIH WA 6000 Phone 9425 2850 Fax 9425 2167 Freecall 1800 818 988 Email mbxcws@justice.wa.gov.au

Albany

Albany Courthouse 184 Stirling Terrace ALBANY WA 6330 Phone 9845 5222

Broome

Kimberley Regional Offices 2 Weld Street BROOME WA 6276 Phone 9191 2400

Bunbury

Ground Floor, Bunbury Courthouse 65 Wittenoom Street BUNBURY WA 6230 Phone 9781 4212 Fax 9781 4233

9941 5566

Carnarvon

Carnarvon Courthouse Cnr Robinson Street and Babbage Island Road CARNARVON WA 6701

Phone Derby

Derby Courthouse Loch Street DERBY WA 6728 Phone 9191 2274

Esperance

Esperance Courthouse 100 Dempster Street ESPERANCE WA 6450 Phone 9071 6318

Geraldton

Geraldton Courthouse Marine Terrace GERALDTON WA 6530 Phone 9921 3722 Fax 9921 4358

Victims of Crime

Department of the Attorney GeneralPhone13 67 57Websitewww.dotag.wa.gov.au

Government of **Western Australia** Department of **the Attorney General**

Child Witness Service



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Understanding the Child Witness Service



What is the Child Witness Service?

The Child Witness Service (CWS) assists children and young people who may need to give evidence in court. It is a free service provided by the Department of the Attorney General.

Children and young people may be required to give evidence before one of the following courts:

- Magistrates Court
- District Court
- Supreme Court
- Children's Court.

The CWS provides practical information and helps children and young people emotionally prepare for court. We support children and young people on an individual basis. Evidence is never discussed.

The CWS does not provide counselling. However we can make referrals to appropriate agencies when additional support is required. The Child Witness Service provides support and help from when charges are laid until the matter before the court has been finalised.

CWS offices are located in Perth, Bunbury and Geraldton. Services are also provided in other regional areas.

The CWS can assist children and young people to prepare a victim impact statement to provide to the court.

Who can be referred to the service?

Any child or young person under 18 years of age who is a victim or a witness in a criminal matter.

When should a child or young person be referred?

It is important that a child or young person is referred to CWS as soon as possible after charges have been laid against an alleged offender.

It does not matter whether a decision has been made about the child or young person needing to give evidence.

What information should be provided at the time of the referral?

Where possible, the following details need to be provided at the time of referral:

- Child or young person's name, date of birth, current address and ethnicity.
- Charges against the alleged offender (if known).
- Details of the child or young person's current caregivers.
- Other services being provided to the child or young person and their family by another agency (if known).