



Useful services

WA Police Force: 13 14 44

CAMHS Crisis Connect: 1800 048 636

Crisis Care Helpline: 1800 199 008

Kids Helpline: 1800 551 800

Lifeline: 13 11 14

13YARN: 13 92 76

National Sexual Assault, Domestic Family Violence
Counselling Service: 1800 RESPECT

Sexual Assault Resource Centre: 1800 199 888

Office of Criminal Injuries Compensation: 9425 3250

Citizen's Advice Bureau: 9221 5711

Legal Aid Information Line: 1300 650 579

Victims of Crime

Website: www.victimsofcrime.wa.gov.au

Department of Justice

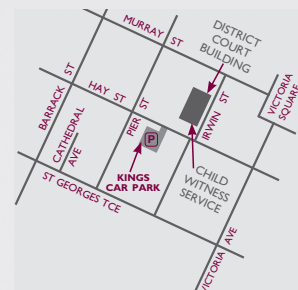
Phone: 13 67 57

Website: www.justice.wa.gov.au

Office locations

Perth

Level 2, District Court Building
500 Hay Street
PERTH WA 6000
Phone: (08) 9425 2850
Freecall: 1800 818 988



Email:

childwitnessservice@justice.wa.gov.au

Albany

Albany Courthouse
184 Stirling Terrace
ALBANY WA 6330
Phone: (08) 9845 5222

Broome

Broome Courthouse
Hammersley St
BROOME WA 6276
Phone: (08) 9192 6108 or
(08) 9158 3847

Bunbury

Ground Floor
Bunbury Courthouse
65 Wittenoom Street
BUNBURY WA 6230
Phone: (08) 9781 4294 or
(08) 9781 4212

Carnarvon

Carnarvon Courthouse
Cnr Robinson Street and Babbage
Island Road
CARNARVON WA 6701
Phone: (08) 9941 5566

Derby

Derby Courthouse
Loch Street
DERBY WA 6728
Phone: (08) 9191 2274

Esperance

Esperance Courthouse
100 Dempster Street
ESPERANCE WA 6450
Phone: (08) 9071 6318

Geraldton

Geraldton Courthouse
Marine Terrace
GERALDTON WA 6530
Phone: (08) 9964 4816

Kalgoorlie

Kalgoorlie Courthouse
208 Hannah Street
KALGOORLIE WA 6430
Phone: (08) 9093 5334 or
(08) 9093 5335

Karratha

Karratha Courthouse
Balmoral Road
KARRATHA WA 6714
Phone: (08) 9143 1877

Kununurra

Kununurra Courthouse
94 Coolibah Drive
KUNUNURRA WA 6743
Phone: 9166 7130

Northam

Northam Courthouse
118 Wellington Street
NORTHAM WA 6401
Phone: (08) 9622 7017

South Hedland

South Hedland Justice Complex
Hawke Place
SOUTH HEDLAND WA 6722
Phone: (08) 9172 9313

Mandurah

Mandurah Courthouse
333 Pinjarra Road
MANDURAH WA 6210
Phone: (08) 9583 1120



Government of Western Australia
Department of Justice

Child Witness Service



Court and Tribunal Services Division



Victim Support and
Child Witness Service

Understanding the Child Witness Service



What is the Child Witness Service?

The Child Witness Service (CWS) is a free service provided by the Department of Justice. The service is available to any person under the age of 18 at the time of referral.

This service is for children and young people who are victims or witnesses of a crime and who may need to give evidence at court:

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

The CWS provides practical information and helps children and young people emotionally prepare for court. Support is individualised and tailored to the person. Evidence is never discussed.

From the time of referral, the CWS will monitor the progress of the court matter and can provide updates as needed. You can contact the CWS at any time to ask questions and find out about the progress of the court matter.

Ongoing support and assistance will be provided until the court matter is finalised.

Who makes referrals to the CWS?

Most of our referrals come from the WA Police Force; however, anyone can make a referral once charges have been laid.

To make a referral you will need to know the name of the accused person and/or the charge numbers related to the court matter.

Do I need to attend court?

No, it is not necessary for the young person or your family to attend every court appearance. Court appearances are often very brief.

The CWS can provide you with an update on the progress of the court matter or you can access information using the eCourts portal – <https://ecourts.justice.wa.gov.au>. You will need to know the name of the accused person to access this information.

My child has recorded their police interview. Do they still need to provide evidence in court?

Yes. If the accused person pleads not guilty, your child will be required to give evidence in court in most cases. Your child's police interview will only form a part of your child's overall evidence.

How will my child give evidence?

Children can give their evidence in open court or via closed circuit television (CCTV). It is not automatic for all children to give their evidence via CCTV. How a child gives evidence will depend on a range of factors including the type of charge, age of the child and their role in the trial. The CWS will discuss your child's specific situation with you.

Does the CWS provide counselling?

No; however, the CWS can help by referring your child to an appropriate counselling service.

How can I support my child?

The CWS aims to offer a safe and secure environment for your child. Please discuss any concerns you have with the team.



**Victim Support
and Child Witness
Service**