



To contact the Child Witness Service or make a referral, contact Victim and Child Witness Services:

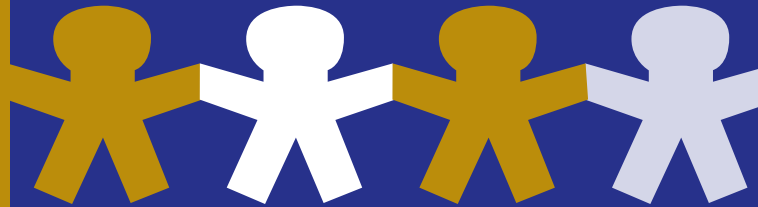
Telephone: 9425 2850
Facsimile: 9425 2167
Freecall: 1800 818 988

Offices
District Court Building,
Level 2, 500 Hay Street Perth

Bunbury Courthouse
65 Wittenoom Street Bunbury

Geraldton Courthouse
Marine Terrace Geraldton

After Your Child's Interview



Information and support
available for families



Government of **Western Australia**
Department for **Child Protection**



Child
Witness
Service


from interview to court



Now that your child has recorded their interview, a number of events may occur involving the police, the courts and other agencies.

This brochure answers key questions and provides information about what will be required of your child and help that is available.

What happens after your child has recorded an interview?



Your child may be referred to a local Department for Child Protection office for counselling or other welfare matters. This will be discussed with you before the referral. If the Department for Child Protection is already involved with your family, your case manager will discuss any follow up counselling with you.

The police detective working with your family will let you know if criminal charges will be laid against the accused person.

What happens when charges are laid?



Once the police lay charges against an accused person, criminal court proceedings will begin.

- Serious offences are forwarded to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), who is responsible for the court proceedings. This may require your child to be interviewed by a member of the DPP.

- Other offences will be forwarded to a police prosecutor in the area where the alleged offences occurred. The police prosecutor will be responsible for these court proceedings.

Once charges are laid, your child will be referred to the Child Witness Service, which is part of the Department of the Attorney General. Referrals are normally made by the police, however you can contact the Child Witness Service directly for help.

The Child Witness Service provides detailed information about the court process and keeps you informed about each court appearance made by the accused person. The Child Witness Service will prepare your child to give evidence in court and advocate to ensure your child's individual needs are acknowledged by the court.

What happens in court?



If the accused person pleads 'not guilty' and the matter proceeds to a trial, your child's evidence will be required.

Your child's recorded interview may be used as the main evidence in the trial. Your child will be required to answer additional questions and give further evidence during the trial, this is called cross examination.

In most instances, your child will give evidence from a remote room so they will not see the accused person. This room is separate to the main courtroom and uses closed-circuit television. The accused person will not be allowed to question or speak to your child.

The court proceedings can be long and a trial may take up to two years. The Child Witness Service will provide support until all court proceedings are finished.