

Claiming Expenses

If you are called as a witness, you may be able to claim your expenses after the trial.

These expenses may include travel to court, essential childcare and loss of earnings. The Witness Service will be able to provide you with a form so that you can claim from the Attorney General's Chambers or the Police.

Our Commitment

Victim Support offers a service to all sections of the community. We are committed to ensuring that minority and disadvantaged groups are welcomed and involved throughout the organisation and anyone supported receives free, confidential and non-judgmental support.

Victim Support and the Witness Service welcomes comments and suggestions about the service provided for victims of crime. You can write to Victim Support's Chairman at the our address.

If you are going to court or someone you know is going to court as a witness or a victim of crime, the Witness Service can provide free and confidential support to help you cope. Normal opening hours are Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm

Contact the Witness Service at:

Victim Support Isle of Man
6 Albert Street
Douglas
Isle of Man
IM1 2QA

Telephone: 01624 679950
Email: enquiries@victimsupport.im
Website: www.victimsupport.im

Find us on Facebook



Victim Support (Isle of Man)

Registered in the Isle of Man
Company no. 115229C
Registered Charity no. 963



WITNESS SERVICE

GOING TO COURT

**Information for
Witnesses & Victims
going to Court in the
Isle of Man**



Going to Court:

Going to Court as a witness or as the victim of crime can be a worrying experience, particularly if it is your first time and you don't know what to expect.

Court proceedings can be confusing. This leaflet tells you how to get information and support which will help you cope with giving evidence.

The Witness Service:

The Witness Service helps witnesses, victims, their families and friends before, during and after a criminal hearing.

This service is operated by Victim Support, a local Isle of Man charity which helps people cope with crime.

Free & Confidential

Trained staff and volunteers provide emotional support and practical information about court proceedings.

Most witnesses can access this service. Referrals to the service may be made by the Police or the Attorney General's Chambers, but also anyone can make contact directly with the service.

The Witness Service is operated mainly by volunteers, who attend court when required.

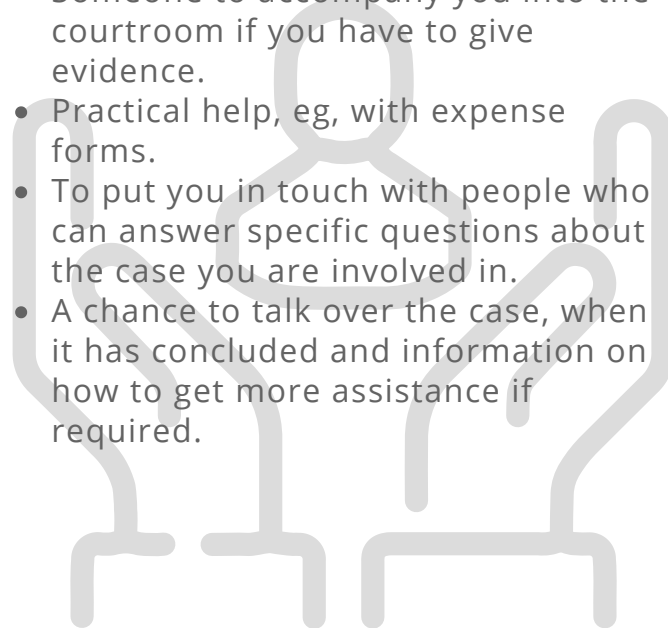
Therefore, they are not present every court day. If you would like our support please contact the office of Victim Support **at least 2 working days** prior to the hearing.

The Witness Service assists

- Witnesses who are called to give evidence.
- Victims of crime and their families and friends attending court.
- Children as well as adults.
- Defence witnesses, if enough notice is given to the Witness Service, so that the same volunteers do not deal with witnesses on both sides.

The Witness Service can offer

- Someone to talk to in confidence.
- A visit to the court and where possible, a look around the courtroom before the day of the trial.
- Information about court procedures and the language used.
- A quiet place with tea and coffee facilities for you to wait before and during the hearing.
- Someone to accompany you into the courtroom if you have to give evidence.
- Practical help, eg, with expense forms.
- To put you in touch with people who can answer specific questions about the case you are involved in.
- A chance to talk over the case, when it has concluded and information on how to get more assistance if required.



The Witness Service does NOT:

- Give legal advice.
- Discuss evidence.
- Provide support for the defendant.
- Provide childcare facilities.

If you are attending court, please consider the following:

- Bring a friend or relative - you don't have to attend court alone.
- Bring any information you have about the case (eg a summons or a letter asking you to attend court).
- Bring something to read or do - you may have to wait a long time for the case to be called. Some reading materials are provided by the Witness Service.
- Mobile phones with camera facilities are not allowed in the IOM Courts of Justice. Other mobiles **must be switched off** in the court rooms.
- Money to cover costs on the day, such as refreshments. You may need to wait quite a few hours. Consider what you will do for meals.
- Childcare arrangements. Do not bring children who are not witnesses to court. Only in special circumstances will children be allowed into the court.
- Wear suitable attire that you would feel smart and comfortable in. eg something you would be happy to wear for a job interview.
- The Journey - allow plenty of time and plan how you are going to get there.