

- Consider how you are going to get to court. If travelling by car, leave enough time for your journey, consider how long will it take to get through the traffic at perhaps rush hour or in inclement weather and where you will park. If travelling by bus, will you arrive in sufficient time, allowing for delays?

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-judgemental support.

Victim Support and the Witness Service welcomes comments and suggestions about the service provided for victims of crime. There is a formal complaints procedure if you wish to make a complaint. You can write to Victim Support's Chairman at the local 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 4pm.

Contact the Witness Service at:

Victim Support
6 Albert Street
Douglas
IMI 2QA
Telephone: (01624) 679950
Fax: (01624) 679960
Email: iomvictimsupport@manx.net
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

Victim Supportline
0845 30 30 900

Victim Support National Office
Hallam House
56-60 Hallam Street
London
W1W 6JL
Telephone: 020 7268 0200
Website: www.victimsupport.org.uk


Witness Service Isle of Man
Helping people in court
A service provided by Victim Support


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Going to court

Information for
Witnesses and
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 charity affiliated to the National Victim Support charity in the UK, which helps people cope with crime.

THIS SERVICE IS FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Trained 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 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, if you wish.
- Practical help, for example 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 how to get more assistance if required.

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 does not:

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

If you are attending court, you may find it useful to think about the following:

- Bring along a friend or relative - you don't have to attend court alone.
- Bring with you any information you have about 'the case (for example a summons or a letter asking you to attend court).
- Bring along 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.
- Bring some money to cover costs on the day, such as car parking and refreshments. In some cases you may need to wait quite a few hours. Consider what you will do for meals.
- Make alternative arrangements for childcare. Do not bring children who are not witnesses to court, if you are giving evidence. Only in special circumstances will children be allowed into the court.
- What to wear. Think about suitable attire that you would feel smart and comfortable in. Perhaps something you would be happy to wear for a job interview.