



The Victim Witness Unit is here to help!

- We help explain the court process and answer your questions about what to expect.
- We can attend court hearings with you or provide you with updates after court hearings over the phone or by email.
- We assist with referrals to resources and services.
- Child victim/witnesses testify in person at jury trials, regardless of if they were interviewed at a Child Advocacy Center. The most important thing for them to do is tell the truth.
- Should a trial become necessary, we will arrange and participate in meetings with you & your child to prepare your family for this process.

How to reach us

Contact your case manager for assistance with navigating the criminal court process and for additional resources

Phone: 608-266-9003

Email: DaneVW@da.wi.gov

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District Attorney's
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Supporting Your Child Through the Criminal Court Process

*Tips for parents and
caregivers supporting
children who are victims
or witnesses of crime*



Your Child is a Victim or Witness in a Criminal Court case: Now What?

It is important your child feel supported during what can be a stressful time.

As their parent or caregiver one of the best things you can do for them is to also take care of yourself so you can support them as best you can.

The **greatest predictor** of a child's resiliency & ability to cope through hard times is having at least one supportive person in their life who believes in them.

Tips for Supporting Your Child

Remind them that none of this is their fault.

Let them know that it's okay to have a lot of big feelings, or no feelings at all, and there are things they can do to feel better.

Tell them they are not the only one that has gone through this; other kids and families have had these experiences, too.

Remind them there are people who support them, such as family members, friends, caseworkers, advocates, therapists, and lawyers; and name those people together.

If your child wants to talk about what happened to them it's important you do not ask questions and simply listen. You can thank them for sharing with you and emphasize you will always be there for them.

Limit your child's exposure to adults conversations about the court case to minimize stress and anxiety.



Parents and caregivers should identify your own supports to talk with about your feelings about what has happened to your child and the court process- do not have your child take on this role.

Consider allowing your child to make choices whenever possible, even about little things such as which shirt to wear, or which errand to do first etc. This helps children feel a sense of personal power and control again.

Stick to your child's usual daily routines as much as you can; knowing what to expect helps kids feel safer and more secure.

Remind your child that they are strong and will get through this.