



## BEING A WITNESS



## WHAT IS A WITNESS?

A witness is someone who has seen or heard something that is important in a case. They provide information to help the court decide what happened.

A witness must be honest and tell the truth. They are sworn to do this in court.

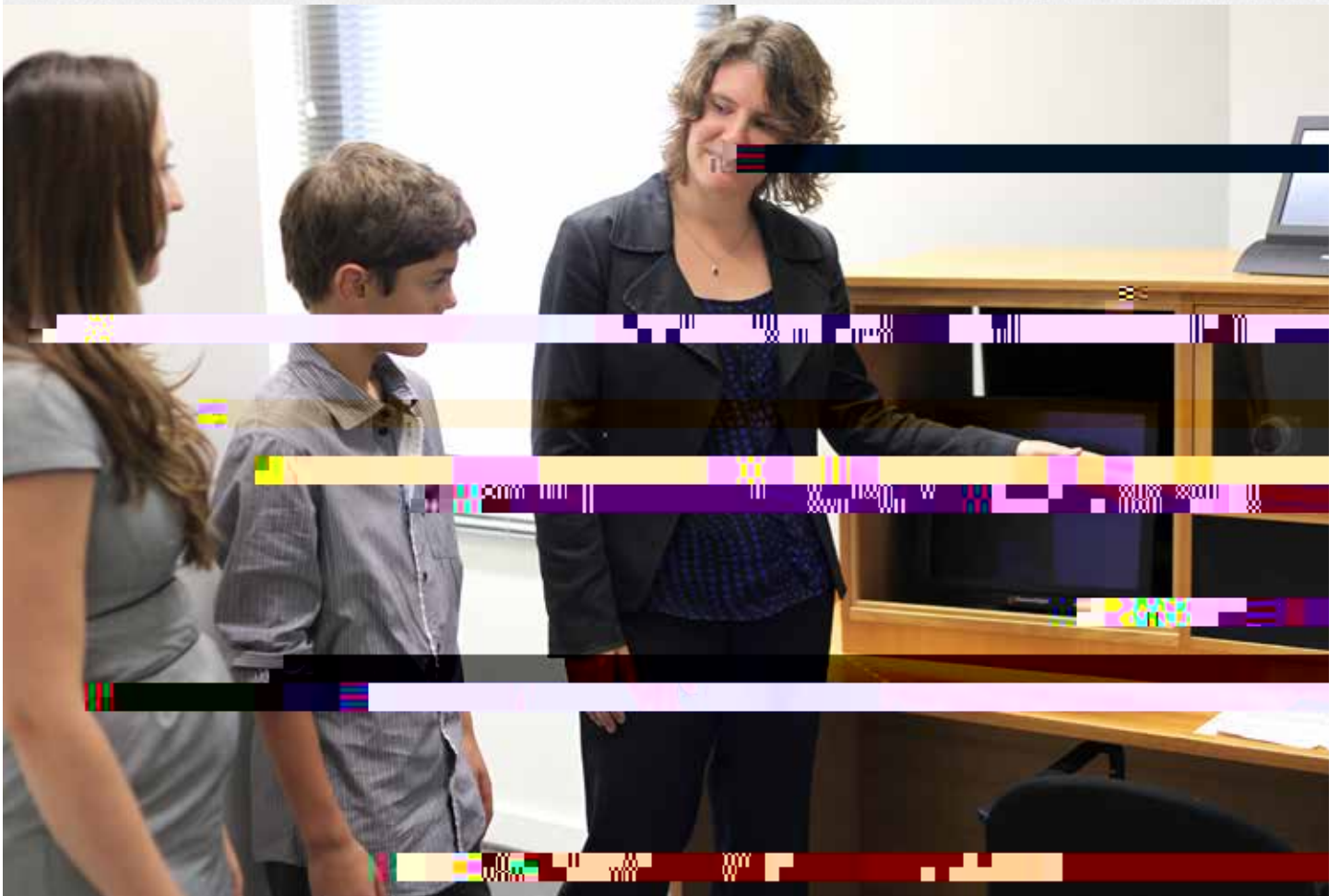
Q. What did you see?  
A. I saw the car crash into the building.  
# Can I see the video?  
# Must I see the video?  
# Did you see the driver?  
# Yes, I did.



## BEFORE YOU GIVE EVIDENCE



**“ YOU CANNOT JUST IGNORE A SUMMONS AS IT IS A LEGAL DOCUMENT THAT STATES YOU HAVE TO ATTEND COURT. THE SUMMONS IS USUALLY GIVEN TO YOU BY A POLICE OFFICER OR SOMEONE FROM THE SHERIFF’S OFFICE. ”**





“ THE PROSECUTOR WORKS FOR THE STATE TO PRESENT EVIDENCE ABOUT THE ALLEGED OFFENCE. THIS MEETING IS CALLED PROOFING. THE PROOFING ALLOWS YOU TO TALK ABOUT YOUR EVIDENCE TO MAKE SURE IT IS CORRECT AND YOU HAVE INCLUDED EVERYTHING ”



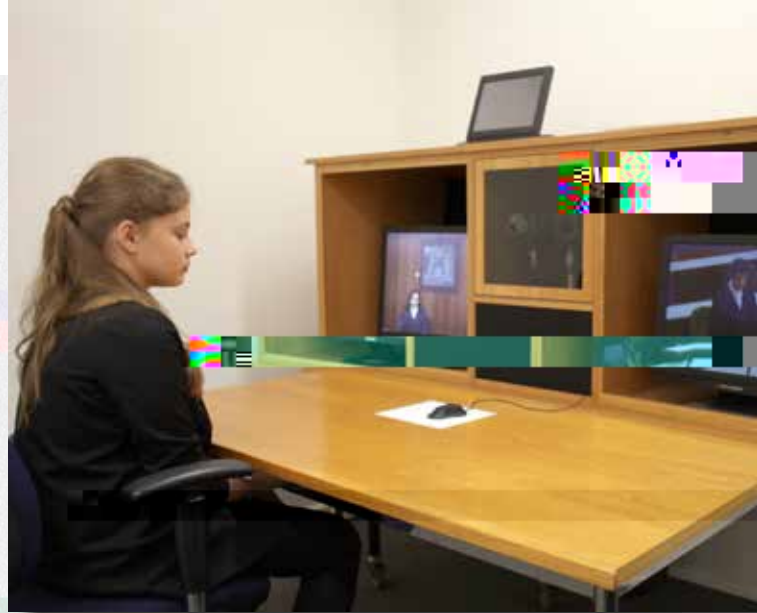
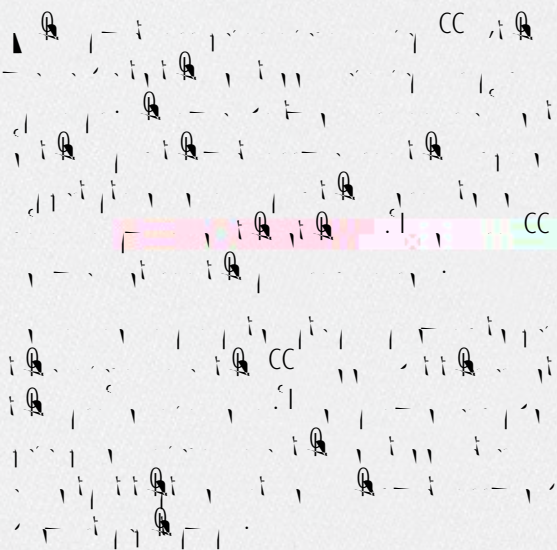


# HOW DO I GIVE EVIDENCE?

## Open court



## Closed-circuit television (CCTV)



“ YOUR CHILD WITNESS WORKER CAN SHOW YOU WHAT EITHER A COURTROOM, OR CCTV LOOKS LIKE, DEPENDING ON HOW YOU ARE GIVING YOUR EVIDENCE ”











3 **Don't ask the truth**

3 **Tell the lawyers if you don't understand a question.**







## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

B

What should I wear when I come to court as a witness?

D

What time should I arrive at the court?

10

Do I need to bring anything with me?

B

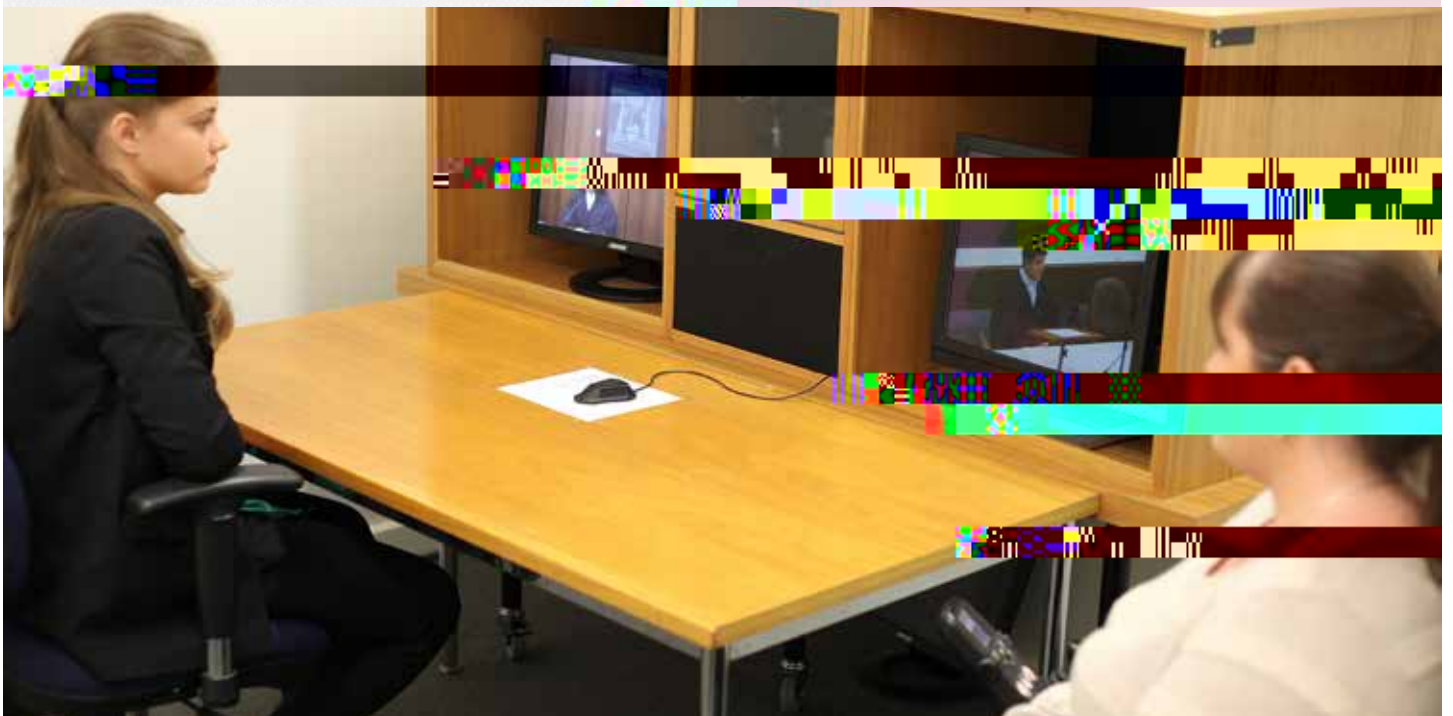
N

D

How many days will I need to attend the court?

Who can I bring for support?

If you are giving evidence in the CCTV room you can nominate a support person to sit in the CCTV room with you. The person has to be over 18 years old and they cannot be a witness in the trial. The support person also has to be approved by the court. It is best to discuss this with your worker from the Child Witness Service.





# DEFINITIONS

**Accused:**

**Adjoined:**

**Affirmation:** A

"I sincerely declare and affirm that the evidence I give in this case will be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth"

(see oath)

**Alleged:**

**Bail:**

**Child Witness Service:**

**Closed Circuit Television (CCTV):**

**Complainant:**

**Court Appointed Officer (CAO):**

**Cross Examination:**

**Defence Lawyer:**

**Evidence:**

**Evidence in Chief:**

**Guilty:**

**Judge:**

**Jury:** 12

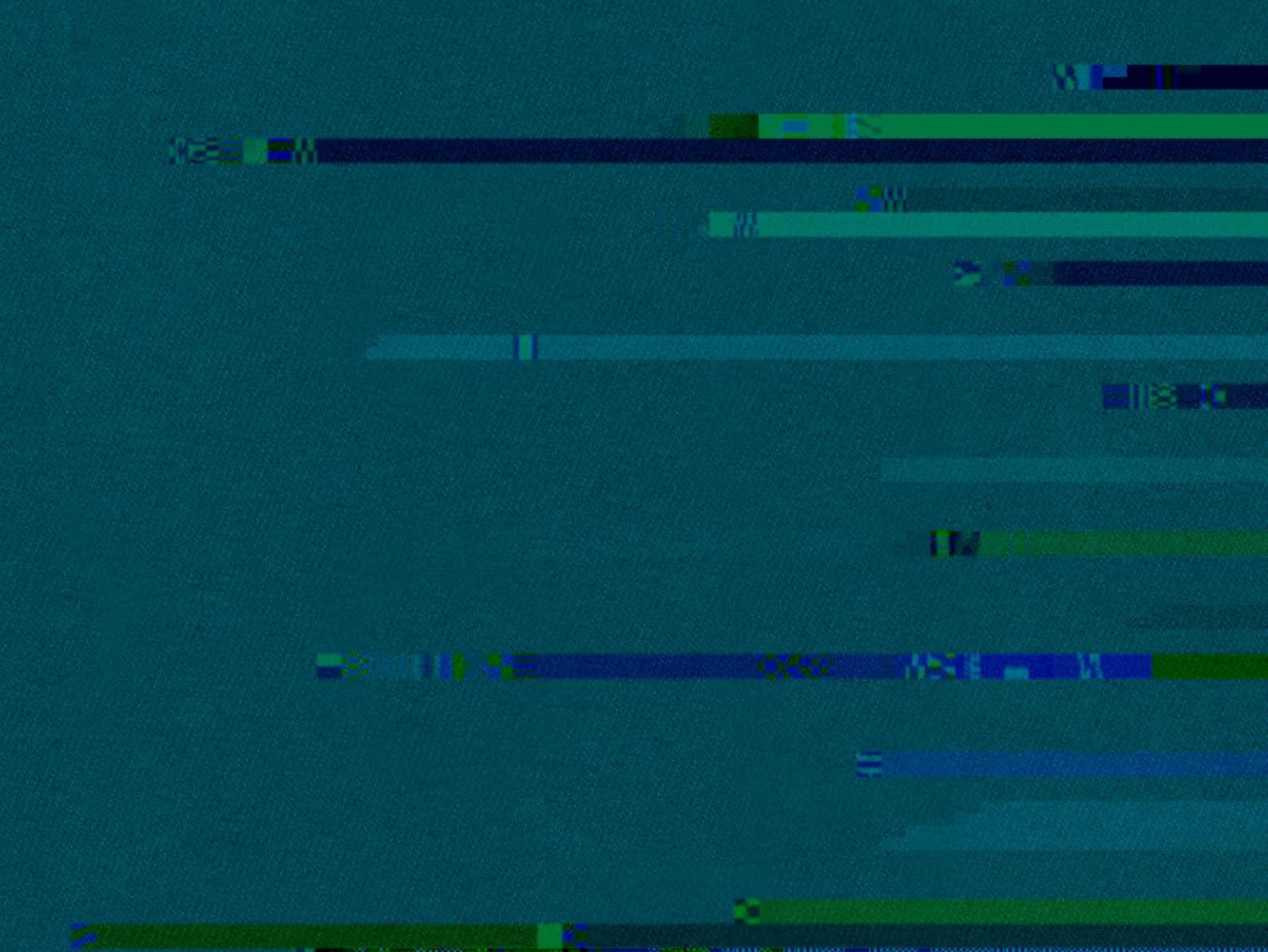
**Magistrate:**

**Not Guilty:**









**Child Witness Service**  
**Department of the Attorney General**

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