



## RESOURCES

The Child Victim Witness Support Program has developed resources for children and youth who have to testify in court.

### Our COPE Service Dogs

Beacon and Marion act as goodwill ambassadors of the Centre. They provide emotional/relaxation support and deep pressure therapy to children, youth and their caregivers. Their sweet, gentle nature, and genuine care of people, enhances the healing-centered approach of the Advocate Program immensely.



### CourtPrep.ca

[www.courtprep.ca](http://www.courtprep.ca) was developed to help older children and youth understand the justice system in Canada. This interactive website provides information about court, the people in the courtroom and their roles. It can be used to help prepare youth prepare to testify in court.

### MY COURT CASE TOOL KIT

Developed to assist professionals in preparing children/youth to testify in court. The kit will help to alleviate the stress and anxiety of child witnesses by educating them about the justice system and their role as a witness. Includes: facilitator's guide; activity book for children and youth; and several interactive tools, including a video to be used by professionals when preparing child witnesses.



## WHO WE ARE

At the Child & Youth Advocacy Centre Simcoe Muskoka (CYACSM), we believe every child deserves a safe and happy childhood. We understand that when a young person experiences abuse, it can have a profound and lasting impact on their lives.

That's why CYACSM is here. We reduce the barriers children, and their families face when seeking help. By bringing together police officers, child welfare professionals, medical experts, and advocates all in one child-friendly space, we minimize the challenges they encounter in accessing the support they need. By ensuring that children feel heard and supported, we help them to heal and thrive.

**This program is made possible through the generous support of the Ministry of the Attorney General, Victims and Vulnerable Persons Division.**



## THE CHILD VICTIM-WITNESS SUPPORT PROGRAM

**705-327-0118**

[www.cyacsimcoemuskoka.ca](http://www.cyacsimcoemuskoka.ca)

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Barrie, ON L4N 6S7

[info@cyacsimcoemuskoka.ca](mailto:info@cyacsimcoemuskoka.ca)

## About the Program

The court process can be a confusing and frightening experience for a child or youth. Every child or youth has the right to be thoroughly prepared for his/her role as a witness in court.

The Child Victim Witness Support Program (CVWSP) offers a range of services to assist children, youth and their caregivers in preparation for a court appearance. Any child or youth subpoenaed to court is eligible for service from the program.

The program includes:



Individual court preparation for children and youth (3-17 years), and their caregivers;



Court Accompaniment for child and youth witnesses; and



Post court follow-up for children, youth and their caregivers.

**All referrals are made by the  
Victim Witness Assistance Program**

## Court Preparation

During individual sessions, Child Witness Advocates will:



Discuss fears, concerns and questions about going to court;



Discuss strategies to mitigate these fears and concerns;



Provide information and answer questions about the criminal justice system; and



Explain the court process and everybody's role in it.



Facilitate and attend meetings between the witness and the Crown Attorney.

**Child Victim Witness Support Program  
staff have flexible schedules to  
accommodate families' needs.**

### Need help?

If you or someone you know is in immediate danger, call 911.

To report concerns about a child's safety or well-being, call your local police or child welfare agency, or 24/7:

(705) 726-6587  
1-800-461-4236

Reporting is not an accusation,  
but a request for assessment.



## Court Accompaniment



Child Witness Advocates can attend court with children or youth, if requested.



Child Witness Advocates can act as Designated Support Person for child or youth witnesses.

## Post-Court Support



Debrief meetings following court;



Understanding the judge's decision and what happens after court;



Assistance completing Victim Impact Statements; and



Referrals to other services/agencies, if required.



**AT NO TIME IS THERE ANY  
DISCUSSION OF EVIDENCE**

**Support in French and Indigenous  
languages is available  
upon request or as needed.**