

Criminal justice and you

An essential guide for victims and witnesses

Special measures

By Temporary Detective Superintendent Steve Wray

Hello. My name is Steve Wray and I'm a Temporary Detective Superintendent in charge of the Victim and Witness Care Units. If appropriate, in your case, Witness Care Officers will talk to you about special measures.

Vulnerable or intimidated victims and witnesses have a right to be considered for special measures at court in certain circumstances. These may include, but are not limited to, a screen so you do not see the defendant when answering questions, or the opportunity to give evidence by live video link so you do not have to be in the same room where the trial is taking place.

The court will make the final decision about whether you are eligible for special measures during the trial, and your Witness Care Officer will discuss this with you.

Thank you. I hope this has been helpful.

Glossary

Intimidated witnesses - Intimidated witnesses are those whose quality of testimony is likely to be diminished by reason of fear or distress at the prospect of giving evidence.