

Special Measures



**NORTHUMBRIA
POLICE**



Made by the Easy Info Team at Skills for People, employing people with a learning disability.

What happened to you



You have been given this information because you have told us about something bad that has happened to you.



When you have told someone about this you might need to go to court to say what has happened to you.



This can make you scared or worried.



You can ask for help if you have to go to court.

This is called a **Special Measure**. This leaflet tells you about the help you can get and how to ask for it.

Who can ask for help?

You can ask for help if you have a reason why it would be difficult to go to court to say what has happened to you. The reason can be that:



You have a disability.



You are young (under the age of 18).



You have mental health problems.



You can also ask for help if you are worried that someone might try to stop you telling the court what happened to you. This might make you very scared and upset.

What help can I ask for?

Screen



A screen can be put up in the court so that you cannot see the person that might make you scared or upset. Other people in the court will still be able to see you.



Private court

Some people can be told to leave the court when you say what happened to you.



No wigs or gowns

People who wear wigs and gowns in the court can be asked to take them off. This can help you to feel more comfortable.



Intermediaries

Someone can sit with you to help you understand and answer the questions that you are asked.



Communication aids

You can use a communication aid to help you say what happened to you. It can help you understand and answer questions too.



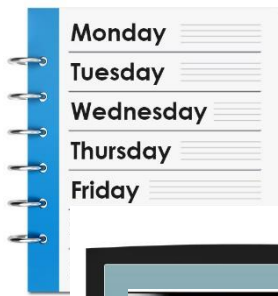
Live link

You can say what happened to you on a TV screen.

This means you will be safe in a different place away from the court room.



Everyone in the court will be able to see and hear you. You will only be able to see and hear the person in the court that is asking you the questions.



Recorded link

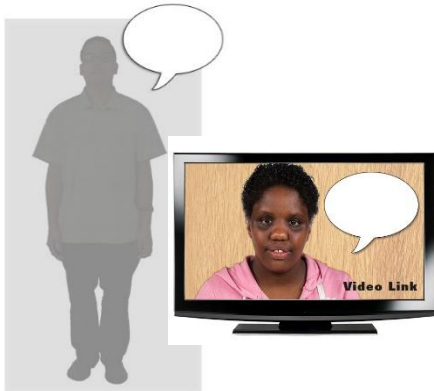
You can say what happened to you on a different day.

A video of what you said will be shown to the court. This means that you won't have to be in the court.

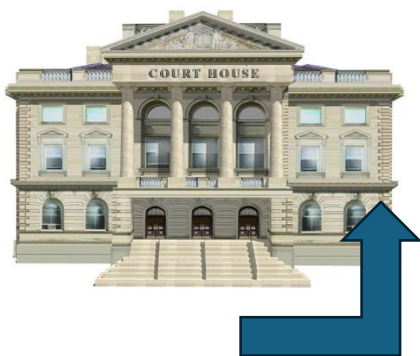


Pre-trial visit

You can ask to go to the court before the trial to see what it will look like.



You can see the things that you have asked for. Things like where the screen will be or the room where you will talk on a TV.



You can see which door you will use to get in to the court. This can be a different door or private door to help you feel safe.



How to ask for the help you need

You must decide what help you want and then you must ask for the help.



You must say what help you would like and how this will help you.



You must do this as soon as you can.



This is very important because it will help other people get the help you need ready for you.

How to get more help



There are lots of people that can support you to ask for the help you need if you have to go to court.



If you have told the Police what has happened to you, you will have an **Officer in Charge** who can help you.



If you have been to a **Sexual Assault Referral Centre**, the staff there can help you.



Your **Independent Sexual Violence Advisor** or **Independent Domestic Violence Advisor** can help you.

This is a person that helps you to speak up for yourself about what has happened to you, or they can speak up for you.

Beth's story



1 Beth has told the Police that she has been **raped** by her ex-boyfriend.



2 This means that he had sex with Beth but she said it was not ok.



3 Beth's ex-boyfriend was unkind to her. He would shout at her and tell her what to do.



4 Beth is very worried about having to go to court to say what her ex-boyfriend has done to her.



5 Lisa is Beth's Independent Sexual Violence Advisor. Lisa helps Beth to think about the things that could help her.



6 Beth says she would feel safer if there was a screen in the court. This would stop her being able to see her ex-boyfriend in the court.



7 Beth said she understood that she would know he was there but she could not see him.



8 Lisa asked the court to make sure there is a screen for Beth. The screen is put up before Beth goes in to the court.

Andrew's story



1 Andrew has told the Police that he has been **sexually assaulted**.



2 This means that someone has touched his body. They have done sexual things that he did not want them to.



3 Andrew has mental health problems. This makes it hard for him to go to new places like the court.



4 Andrew is very worried about going to court. He says this will make his mental health worse.



5 Lisa is Andrew's **Independent Sexual Violence Advisor**. Lisa helps Andrew to think about the things that could help him.



6 Andrew would like to say what happened to him on a **live link**. This means he will be safe in another room.



7 Andrew can see and hear the person in the court asking him questions and can say what happened to him.



8 Lisa asks the court to make sure there is a live link set up for Andrew.