

Witness Service

Oxfordshire Magistrates' Courts

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Margaret Ward and I have recently been appointed Senior Co-ordinator of the Oxfordshire Magistrates and Crown Court Witness Service. This service is part of Victim Support Oxfordshire, which as you may know is a charity set up to support victims of crime and their families in the community. The Witness Service has been set up to compliment the highly successful and important work of Victim Support.

We are now in the process of recruiting volunteers to enable the service to be offered to all Magistrates Courts in Oxfordshire. Research has shown that people who are supported whilst giving evidence are more likely to be able to cope with the experience and therefore give their evidence more effectively. It can often be a very daunting and sometimes frightening experience to attend court to give evidence and the Oxfordshire Magistrates Court Witness Service aims to help witnesses, victims, their family and friends by providing a free and confidential service.

We can arrange pre trial visits to court and explain who sits where, where to stand when giving evidence, who to contact when entering the court building, and give more practical help with things like filling in claim forms and offering support once the trial has finished.

We are looking for volunteers from all sectors of the community to help provide this service and professional training and support is given to all our staff to ensure the service is carried out to a very high standard. If anyone is interested in becoming a volunteer for this important service across the county, or has been called to give evidence and would like to talk to us, we would be very pleased to hear from them on 01993 708147 or write to
Oxfordshire Magistrates Court Witness Service,
PO Box 270, Witney, OX28 6YU.

I am sure you will appreciate how important it is that we reach all areas of the county and with your help we should ensure that people know we are here to offer help and assistance if they require it. I would also be happy to talk to any organisation that may like to hear more about the Oxfordshire Magistrates Court Service and/or Victim Support.

Victim Support

Helping people cope with crime

Oxfordshire Magistrates' Courts Witness Service,
PO Box 270, Witney, Oxfordshire OX28 6YU. Telephone/Fax 01993 708147

A service provided by the Victim Support Scheme Oxfordshire PO Box 1077,
Headington, Oxford OX3 7XU Tel: 01865 751511 Fax: 01865 751513.

Charity Registration 1070075.