

COURT SUPPORT SERVICES

780-980-7232

Court Support: One of our Victim Service Unit mandates is to provide Court Support for Victims of Crime. Court support has several components such as;

Court Outcome Updates; Unless there is a Preliminary Trial, it is not necessary for the victim to attend court until the date and time you are required as a witness however, it is important that you know what has been happening at the court appearances the accused has had to attend. Victim Services can keep track of those appearances and advise you what has occurred, when the next court date is and when and if a trial will take place

Court Orientation; This includes an actual tour of the Leduc Court House and a court room so parties are familiar with what the room looks like, who sits where, where the witness box is etc. Time: Usually about ½ hour.

Witness preparation; This will includes watching a witness preparation video in the classroom at the RCMP Detachment, answering a questionnaire and having the opportunity to ask questions and understand what fears and misconceptions you may have, (it's not like TV). Time: 1 hour

Court Accompaniment; This includes accompanying the witness to court, sitting with them while they wait to testify and sitting in the court room while they testify as a support person. Due to the nature of some of the evidence it is not always in the victim's best interest to have family in the court room when testifying however, to ensure victims are not alone, having a support person is important.

Court Orientation occurs approximately once per month where all victims having court in the next month meet at the court house at approx. 4PM, have a tour of the court house and a court room then move on to the detachment for *Witness Preparation* and watch a witness prep video, answer a questionnaire and have a Q/A period. If victims are familiar with the court house they are not asked to attend the court orientation.

Victims are also encouraged to read their written statement and/or view their video statement about 1 week before the trial start date to refresh their memories however, members must give permission 1st and supply the documents.