



## Top 10 Tips for Giving Evidence

1. **Learn your statement.** Read it carefully and then read it again. The other side have a copy and will be listening for you to make a mistake.
2. **Tell the court the same story you told the police.** If you want to add or change anything tell the prosecutor **before** giving evidence
3. **Do not discuss your evidence with anyone** at home or at court. It is your memory of what happened the court wants to hear.
4. **Listen to the question carefully.** Answer the question you are asked not one you think (or wished) you had been asked.
5. **Ask for the question to be repeated** if you don't understand it.
6. **Keep your answers short.**
7. **Never guess an answer.** If you don't know, say so.
8. **Don't argue or get angry.** It might seem personal but the advocate is just doing a job.
9. **Tell someone if you feel intimidated or uncomfortable** with someone in the court room. Tell the prosecutor or your support person.
10. **It is normal to get upset or overwhelmed.** You can always ask for time to compose yourself or have a drink of water. Often the magistrate or judge will offer you a break if they observe you getting upset.