

# Glossary

## **STATEMENT / GIVING A STATEMENT**

You spoke with police about what happened or what you saw or heard. This conversation was recorded so you could watch it again later to remember what you said.

## **PACT VOLUNTEER**

Your PACT Support Volunteer will accompany you at every key step of the legal process and will answer any questions you may have. While your PACT volunteer is highly trained, they do not have a legal or counselling role. They cannot discuss the details of your case (i.e. what happened or what you saw or heard).

## **93A (REVIEWING YOUR POLICE STATEMENT)**

It can be a long time before you are required to give your evidence in court. To remind you of what has occurred, you will have the opportunity to watch the recording of your original police statement. Your PACT volunteer can sit with you while you watch your statement. Your PACT volunteer cannot discuss what they see or hear with anyone else. They are in the room just to support you.

## **COURT TOUR**

Usually, you will not go into the actual court room to give your evidence. There are special secure rooms attached to court houses where special witnesses can give their evidence remotely via CCTV (video link). When possible, you may also be taken into the court house by a secure entrance so you don't see the defendant in the case.

## **PROSECUTOR'S CONFERENCE**

The prosecutor's conference is a fancy name for meeting the prosecutor. During this meeting the prosecutor may want to clarify some of your evidence. They might ask you to look at any drawings you did to explain what happened, or you may be asked to read text messages that were sent or received on your phone. This is also a great time to ask the prosecutor any questions or concerns, or to let them know if you remember something else about what happened.

## **PRE-RECORDING OF EVIDENCE**

Shortly after you watch your 93A and meet with the prosecutor, you will need to give your evidence in court. This is when you will go to a secure room and record your evidence via CCTV into the court room. The court bailiff will ask you to take an oath/affirmation to tell the truth. The judge will then introduce her/himself and explain a little about what will happen, who will speak with you and what to do if you don't understand something. The judge may also tell you to advise the court if you need to take a break. You will be asked questions by the prosecutor (who you have already met) and also by the defence lawyer. When it is finished, the judge will thank you for being in attendance and say that you are free to go.



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My PACT Support Volunteer's name & contact details are: \_\_\_\_\_