



THE IMPORTANCE OF A WITNESS

WHY BECOMES A WITNESS

Police investigations, which assist in the ruling during case hearings, are largely aided by witness statements and any forms of evidence available to that particular case for successful prosecution.

Due to lack of evidence left at the scene of crime, the witness account will be of utmost importance in ensuring successful prosecution.

Failing to report a crime to the police or to give evidence in a court of law means that the criminals will continue to live amongst the community and continue with their criminal acts. You might be the next target. Therefore, do the right thing and report all criminal activities to the police.

Once there are more people that are willing to give information to the police about crimes that they have witnessed, potential criminals will be scared and stop to commit crimes because there will be always someone looking at them who is willing to give evidence in the court of law.

MYTHS

Witness are subjected too many difficult questions by the police and in the court of law!

At the end you will always be called upon to court many times, which will require you using your own money in arranging accommodation and meals!

Witness personal safety is at risk.

FACTS

As a witness you will be asked few questions as to: what you saw being, what you heard, what you received, description of people in action and little evidence you have regarding the crime.

The Ministry of Justice takes responsibility for all the logistical arrangements. Case postponements are mostly caused by lack of information to the case in which you are a witness. If you provide enough information, the court will correctly prosecute the criminal and you continue to be a free man.

The Namibian Police Force will always ensure the total safety of all witness and all informers so that they can live without fear.

LOGISTICS

The Ministry of Justice can assist any witness summoned to a court proceeding with any of the following: **Transport, Accommodation, Meals**

These are the logistical arrangements that the Ministry of Justice can provide the witness upon request.

The witness must provide information to the serving him/her with a subpoena or notice to appear in court that he/she needs such assistance.

The ministry will make provision for the logistical necessities.