

Cadets attending Court

There will be two occasions where a cadet will have to attend court;

- As a Victim/Witness
- As a Suspect

As soon as cadets are aware that their attendance at court might be required they are to bring this to the attention of their cadet unit leader immediately.

Cadet as Victim

The cadet can be accompanied to court by a VPC leader with experience of court procedures if requested by the cadet. They should check first with the officer in charge of the investigation that this is OK.

They should also make contact with witness care services for the court and ensure they are aware of the circumstances.

If the VPC leader is a serving police officer then they should attend in plain clothes but with Personal Protective Equipment. This will enable the officer to accompany the cadet into court and remain with them in the viewing area and escort them out once evidence has been given if necessary.

Leaders must **not attend** in lieu of the cadets' parents or carers.

Cadets **MUST NOT** wear cadet uniform to court. Cadets can be guided by VPC or witness care representatives in regard to what to wear. For example some might want them to attend in school uniform to highlight their age.

If the cadet has attended court as a victim or witness, within a week of the case a leader should have a short informal debrief with them to ascertain if there are any welfare issues their involvement in the case has brought about. Cadet leaders should also monitor the cadet for changes in behaviour brought about by their involvement in the case.

In certain cases it may be appropriate to inform the media about the involvement of a cadet in certain criminal proceedings, however this must be done under the guidance of the force press/communications team and the Investigating Officer.

This is to ensure there is no risk to the cadet in retaliation for the participation in the case.

The National Hub Team should also be made aware in case of national media enquiries.

Cadet as Suspect

Cadets who are charged, bailed or summonsed for a criminal offence should be suspended until the conclusion of the judicial process, at which time appropriate action may be taken.

Consideration should also be given to retrieving their uniform until after the matter is dealt with. The Unit Leader should discuss the circumstances with the Senior Leader for cadets, if the decision is made not to suspend the cadet, the decision must be documented on the cadet's electronic record. If necessary, the Force Coordinator should inform the Unit Leader of the circumstances. However, care must be taken not to discuss the court case and the circumstances around it with the cadet.

If the cadet is suspended this does not mean that they cannot be supported through the process if they so wish and if it is appropriate. This support should come from the Unit Leader, Force Cadet Coordinator or person holding similar role, who must keep a log of all contact with the cadet and who will notify the Senior Lead with responsibility for the cadets and the Officer in the Case (OIC) of these contacts. Cadet Coordinators or Unit Leaders may, if the suspect wishes, attend court to show support for the cadet. This however must be out of uniform.

Details regarding the cadet's service to the VPC may be provided if the court requests it. However, any other information beyond this (i.e. character references) would require consultation and advice from the DPS and Directorate of Legal Services (DLS).