



Pyper, Facility Dog, in the Musselshell County Courtroom

Going to Court

If you are going to court for the first time, you probably have a lot of questions.

This brochure answers questions other kids have asked, so let's get started ~

- ✚ A courtroom is a special room where people go to tell what they know.
- ✚ Lots of kids have been to court and they have had all kinds of different feelings about it. It is okay however you feel.
- ✚ Before you go to court get a good night's sleep. Sometimes court takes a long time, so you do not want to be tired.
- ✚ Be sure to dress nice, but be comfortable. You will be sitting for a while, so wear your comfortable clothes.
- ✚ Eat a good breakfast and bring a snack.

Who We Are

About Us

The Victim Witness Advocate is trained to support victims of crime. She offers victims information, emotional support, and help finding resources. The Advocate attends court with the victims, along with her German Shepherd, Pyper, they provide emotional support and understanding of the criminal justice process. Pyper is trained to work with young and old alike to help make them more comfortable in court. The Advocate and Pyper offer understanding during emotional and stressful times.

Contact Us

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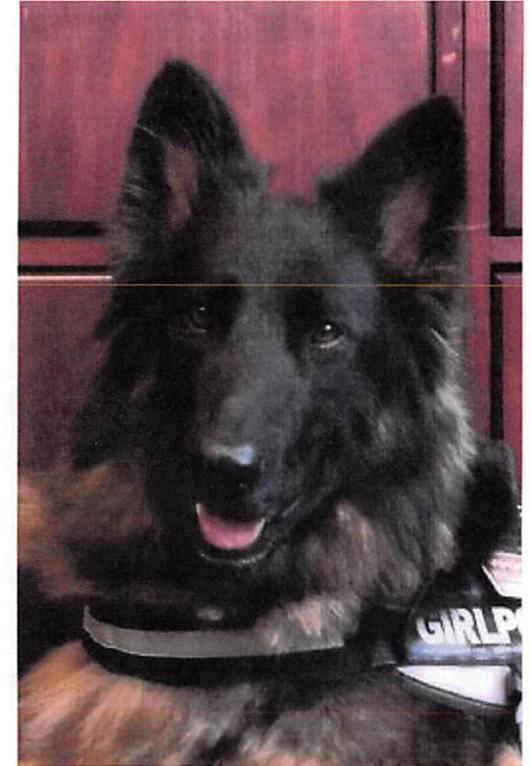
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MUSSELSHELL GOLDEN VALLEY VICTIM WITNESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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GOLDEN VALLEY
VICTIM WITNESS
ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM**

*GOING TO
COURT*



Why am I going to court, and what do I do in court?

- + You're going to court because something happened to that you know about and have to tell.
- + Your job in court is to answer questions. Some questions will be about you, like your name and how old you are.
- + Your other job is to tell the truth when you answer questions.

Who will be in court with me?

There are many people who will be in the courtroom with you. Let's talk about a few of them.

- ❖ The Judge ~ the judge wears a black robe and is the boss in the courtroom. The judge listens to what you have to say and always wants to hear the truth.
- ❖ The County Attorney ~ the county attorney helps you tell the judge what happened. The county attorney is sometimes called the Prosecutor. The county attorney will ask you questions about what happened.
- ❖ The Defense Attorney ~ the defense attorney is the lawyer for the defendant and will also ask you questions about what happened.
- ❖ The Defendant ~ the defendant is the person who is accused of doing something wrong. You may know the defendant. The defendant will be in the courtroom when you testify.
- ❖ The Court Clerk ~ the court clerk helps the judge by typing notes for the judge. The court clerk will ask you to raise your right hand and promise to tell the truth.
- ❖ The Jury ~ the jury is a group of 12 people, their job is to listen carefully to everything.
- ❖ The Bailiff ~ the bailiff is a deputy sheriff, it is the bailiff's job to keep the courtroom safe.



Pyper

Who is Pyper?

Going to court can be scary, and sometimes the things you need to say are very hard to tell. You are not alone in court, because Pyper will be in court with you.

Pyper will lay by your side on the witness stand as you answer the questions. The Advocate who works with Pyper will teach you special commands to tell Pyper to lay down. During your testimony if you need Pyper, you can just reach down and pet her. When you are done, Pyper will lead you out of the courtroom.