





THE LEGAL SYSTEM & CHILDREN:



ORGANISATION	USEFUL LINKS	SUMMARY
Children and the court system	<p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/young-witness-booklet-for-12-to-17-year-olds - this booklet explains what it means to be a witness, how to give evidence and the help you can get.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/your-child-is-a-witness-booklet-for-parents-carers-and-helpers - this booklet gives information for parents, carers and others going to court with a young witness, including the help you can get.</p>	<p>Children are sometimes required to give evidence in courts, either for crimes committed against them or for crimes they have witnessed.</p> <p>Going to court as a witness can be stressful and might impact a child's mood; if we know about the situation, we endeavour to support in any way we can.</p>
Children with family members in prison	<p> Directory of Services - Prison Services NICCO</p> <p>Supporting my child Prison Advice and Care Trust</p> <p> Prisoners' Families Helpline (prisonersfamilies.org) Helpline opening hours: Monday - Friday 9am - 8pm Saturday and Sunday 10am - 3pm</p> <p> <small>Pact: Prisoners - Services - Communities. A team that's together.</small></p>	<p>Approximately 200,000 children have a parent sent to prison each year. These children are at risk of poor outcomes including poverty, stigma, isolation and poor mental health.</p>
Children's Sexual Violence Advocate – criminal justice.	<p> West Mercia Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Centre</p> <p>ADVOCACY SERVICES Advocacy Services - WMRSASC referrals@wmrsasc.org.uk or call the 'Navigators' on 01905 969777</p>	<p>A Children & Young People's Independent Sexual Violence Advocate (ChISVA) will work with individuals to provide help and support if there has been any rape, sexual abuse or sexual exploitation at any time in the individual's life. The ChISVA will support through the criminal justice process but will never tell a person what to do – the choice is always the individual's. There is also support available for families through the Family Independent Sexual Violence Advocate (FISVA).</p>
Hate Crime	<p>http://www.report-it.org.uk/what_is_hate_crime West Mercia Police – Emergency 999; non-emergency number 101 Call in at your local police station</p> <p>https://educateagainsthate.com/parents/ - provides support and advice for parents about different hate crimes.</p>	<p>A hate crime is a criminal offense whose motivation can be shown to be race, national origin, religion or sexual orientation. A difference of race alone is NOT sufficient to make it a hate crime. There would have to be evidence of racial slurs or racial statements in addition to the crime (this does not trivialise other serious offenses that are NOT hate crimes).</p>