

Peel Children's Centre - Child Witness Program

Peel Children's Centre's Child Witness Program (CWP) provides information and support to children/youth who have experienced or witnessed sexual or physical violence and are required to testify in criminal court.

Main Address: 85A Aventura Court, Mississauga, ON L5T 2Y6

Dufferin County Satellite Office: 20 Bredin Parkway, Orangeville, ON L9W 4Z9

Area Served: Dufferin County, Peel and Halton Regions

Accessibility: Wheelchair accessible

Hours: Child Witness Specialists collaborate with families to provide flexible services. Appointments can be arranged between 9am – 8pm Monday to Friday to accommodate work and school schedules.

Telephone: (905)-795-3500

Website: <http://www.peelcc.org>

Services

The Child Witness Program

1. In collaboration with the Victim Witness Assistance Program (VWAP) Peel Children's Centre provides voluntary and free service to children and youth under 18 years of age at the time of referral who are victims and/or witnesses and may be called to testify in criminal court. To participate in this program clients may be residents of Caledon or Dufferin County or the crime may have occurred in Caledon or Dufferin County.

- Services include:
 - Education and support to child/youth and their supportive adults
 - Assessment and recommendations regarding child's needs to testify
 - Court preparation
 - Court accompaniment/support
 - Coping strategies
 - Assistance with Victim Impact Statements/Criminal Injuries Compensation Board applications
 - Referrals and follow up

Accountability

1. Having an official protocol with VWAP regarding referrals and support, the CWP works closely with VWAP and their corresponding partners, the Crown Attorney and the police.
2. The CWP abides by the confidentiality process outlined in various pieces of legislation including the Personal Health Information Act, 2004, Health Care consent Act, 1996, Child and Family Services Act and the Children's Law Reform Act.
3. The CWP abides by the Child and Family Services Act and reports any concerns regarding child protection to the appropriate authority.
4. Should any concerns arise regarding the program including quality or nature of services they can be directed to the supervisor of the program at Peel Children's Centre.

Responsibilities Re: DART Agencies

1. The CWP works in collaboration with VWAP, receiving referrals directly from VWAP. Should a referral come directly from the family or a community professional, the CWP, with consent, will contact VWAP to make them aware of the client.
2. In collaboration with VWAP, provide the client and their family (as appropriate) with updates regarding the court proceedings.
3. Provide preparation and support to the child or youth victim/witness including participation in Crown meetings (when appropriate and in collaboration with VWAP), a tour of the court room and accompaniment and support on the day of testimony.
4. Advocate on behalf of the child or youth victim/witness regarding the use of testimonial aids.
5. Will provide testimony as required.
6. Report any security concerns in advance to the Orangeville Police, the Officer in Charge (OIC) and VWAP.
7. Report any breaches to the OIC and Crown and advise VWAP.
8. Make referrals to community-based agencies as appropriate.

**We are committed to collaboration within the
Domestic Assault Review Team.**

