

# Witness Familiarisation Training

*Increase witness' confidence in the witness box so that evidence can be delivered effectively*



Giving evidence can be a daunting experience. Many witnesses have never seen the inside of a courtroom, yet they are expected to face cross-examination without any preparation at all. A poor performance by a witness can affect the credibility of their evidence and be detrimental to the case.

These risks can be minimised by the process of witness familiarisation.

## Course Outline

Witness familiarisation is an intensive and highly practical training process which provides witnesses with a comprehensive understanding of the theory, practice and procedure of giving evidence and what is expected of them as a witness.

This includes familiarising the witness with the layout of the legal forum, the likely sequence of events when the witness will be giving evidence and an understanding of the different responsibilities of the various people at the hearing.

The witness will learn how to identify and deal with techniques used by lawyers in cross-examination and will partake in a mock cross-examination. The trainer will give constructive feedback on the witness's performance in the witness box.

If required, a further training session can be provided where the mock cross-examination is done with the aid of video.

## Why consider witness familiarisation?

Witnesses are often petrified of giving evidence for whatever legal forum they may have to appear at, yet their evidence can be crucial to the outcome of a case.

Many witnesses have never seen the inside of a courtroom, yet they are expected to face cross-examination without any preparation at all. **Witness familiarisation training** helps demystify the legal process, giving witnesses increased confidence in the witness box, so that evidence can be delivered in the most effective manner.

The training is conducted by one of our panel of experienced trainers who are all qualified lawyers, they will have no knowledge of the facts of the case so there can be no suggestion of coaching.

Our trainers will put the witness through a realistic mock cross-examination based on a fictional case study. The training will ensure that witnesses perform better and prepare more effectively for their time in the witness box.

## Key Learning Points

- How the adversarial legal system works
- The practice, procedure & etiquette of giving evidence
- Roles of the various people in the court, tribunal etc.
- Personal preparation & document familiarisation
- Key skills of presenting effective evidence
- Taking the oath or affirmation with confidence
- Who to speak to and what to call them
- Understand lawyers cross-examination techniques
- Experience realistic & difficult cross-examination
- How to deliver coherent, sequential testimony
- Gain improved witness performance through familiarity and practice

# Witness Familiarisation

*"It is seen as important to provide support to all our staff who are facing giving evidence in forthcoming litigation. We have utilised Witness Familiarisation service to provide this support and the feedback from those who have benefited from the training has been extremely positive."*  
**Marks & Spencer Legal Department**

## About La Touche Training

La Touche Training is Ireland's leading legal training company. We provide practical legal training courses for professionals whose role involves interaction with the Irish legal system. Our course designers and team of lawyers have unparalleled experience in providing high quality training that is tailored to your exact requirements. Client's feedback is testimony to the success of our courses.

## Why use La Touche Training

La Touche Training is the leading provider of Witness Familiarisation training in Ireland. Many leading Irish law firms regularly use La Touche Training to provide witness familiarisation sessions for their witnesses in forthcoming hearings. Together with our sister company Bond Solon in the UK, we have trained over 250,000 witnesses of fact and expert witnesses since 1995.

## Independence

Witness familiarisation does not involve coaching because we are wholly independent and do not know the facts of the case in which the witness is giving evidence.

## Focus

Most people want the opportunity to understand what will happen in court in a safe and supportive environment. At La Touche Training, we provide that support. Our sessions ensure a witness is aware of what will happen on the day in court and why. Through the use of fictitious case studies we make sure witnesses understand how to prepare, focus on their case and are familiar with their documentation. After a witness familiarisation session, witnesses set aside more time for preparation and are more confident about presenting their evidence.

## Timing

Ideally, you should start to think about scheduling a session 2 months before trial. The ideal time for the session to take place is 3 to 4 weeks before the trial; this allows time for the witness to reflect on what they have learnt and to put it into effect.

## Logistics

Training can be run for individuals on a one-to-one basis, or for a number of delegates. One-to-one sessions typically last 4 hours with the time increasing for larger numbers.

## Location/venue

We can conduct the training at our offices in Dublin or at your offices anywhere in the country.

Please call Adrian Kiernan at **01 878 8263** or email **[akiernan@latouchetraining.ie](mailto:akiernan@latouchetraining.ie)** to book or discuss training

