

Filing Criminal Charges

You can file a complaint against the person who hurt you with your local Magistrate (District Justice). Filing a complaint will usually require that you testify at a hearing.

If the police have witnessed recent evidence of abuse, they may also file a complaint. You may have to testify as a witness for the police.

If the defendant is found guilty of assaulting you, he/she may be put in jail, fined, or both.

Tips on Courtroom Behavior

1. Be on time and appear neat and tidy.
2. Do not bring children (unless needed to testify).
3. Review your petition and be prepared.
4. Be serious in the courtroom, and avoid distractions.
5. Listen carefully to all questions, take your time.
6. Speak clearly and loudly, stick to the facts
7. Remain calm and courteous
8. Be yourself and try not to be nervous
9. Don't be afraid to cry
10. And most important is that you TELL THE TRUTH!