

Policy on Giving Evidence in Court



Rationale	Any member of GirlGuiding New Zealand should know what their responsibilities and rights are, if asked to give evidence in court on any matter related to their voluntary position in the Association.
Purposes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To protect the rights of the members of GirlGuiding New Zealand. • To give advice to members on suitable procedures. • To give protection to GirlGuiding New Zealand.
Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members should not take sides in any dispute involving other members or parents. • If a member is a witness, in a Guiding setting, to any event which may lead to court procedures, they should inform their regional co-ordinator. • Members may not voluntarily give court evidence in the context of being a GirlGuiding New Zealand member. They may not wear GirlGuiding New Zealand uniform in court. NB The only exception to this would be if they were requested to do so by the National President. • If requested by the police or a member of the public or another GirlGuiding New Zealand member to give evidence as a GirlGuiding New Zealand member or on a GirlGuiding New Zealand matter, a member should ask to be summonsed to appear as a witness. • In cases as above, the leader must inform the regional co-ordinator who must in turn inform the National President or the Chief Executive. • As a courtesy, the regional co-ordinator should inform the appropriate district co-ordinator without disclosing full details. • Any such matters should be kept confidential and no local official GirlGuiding New Zealand records should be kept except for the procedures referred to in <i>A Guide to Guiding in New Zealand</i>. This confidentiality is especially important if the names of the defendant or witnesses or the facts have been suppressed by the court.
Conclusion	<p>GirlGuiding New Zealand is a voluntary organisation and, as such, its members should not enter into any legal proceedings as GirlGuiding New Zealand members nor any proceedings on behalf of the Association unless agreed to by the National President and GirlGuiding New Zealand's legal advisers.</p> <p>Advice: Information pamphlets are available from the courts or any Youth Aid Officer.</p>
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