

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally made). This item of legislation is currently only available in its original format.

SCHEDULE 2

Paragraph 2(2)(b)

Form 8.2-F

Rule 8.2(4)

Form of personal citation of witness to appear at a trial on indictment

Witness citation

This document is a **citation**. It includes the details about giving your evidence as a witness during a criminal trial at court.

An indictment is a court document which sets out the criminal charges brought against an accused person.

To: *(insert name of witness)*

Date of birth: *(insert)*

Address: *(insert)*

Date of citation: *(insert)*

You are a witness for the prosecution [or defence] in the criminal trial against *(name)*.

This means you **must** attend at:

(Place) **High Court of Justiciary [or *(Place)* Sheriff Court]**

(Address)

On *(date)* at *(time)*

If you do not attend court or if you are not at court at the right time, the court may grant a warrant for your arrest and you could be arrested by the police.

We know attending court as a witness can be difficult. Please read the attached information to help you understand the process and how to get support if you need it.

Prosecution reference *(if known)*:

Defence reference *(if known)*:

(Signed)

Officer of law

(Name, address, email address and telephone number)

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Information to help you as a witness

You are doing an important job as a witness – thank you.

Your contact point

The following person is your contact point if you need to speak to anyone about receiving this citation or you cannot attend court:

Name: *(insert)*

Address: *(insert)*

Telephone number: *(insert)*

Email address: *(insert)*

If you cannot attend court on the date of the trial

Anyone who receives a witness citation must come to court on the date provided. As you could be arrested if you fail to come to court, you must tell your contact point straightaway if there is an important reason why you cannot attend on the date of the trial.

If you are unwell

If you are unwell on the day of the trial, tell your contact point as soon as possible. You must obtain a medical certificate or letter from a registered medical practitioner (i.e. a doctor) or a registered psychologist (i.e. a psychologist registered with the Health and Care Professions Council). Please provide this to your contact point to show that you are not fit to attend court to give evidence, and why.

If you are worried about giving evidence

Speak to your contact point and explain what you are worried about, and why you are worried. It may be possible for measures to be put in place that will make being a witness easier, like:

- going on a court familiarisation visit, so you know what to expect,
- attending court virtually (for example, if you live or work in a different part of the country from where the court building is that you need to attend),
- using a different door to other people to go into court, so you do not have to see them,
- using a different waiting room before you go into court,
- having a supporter with you in the courtroom,
- giving your evidence behind a screen, so you cannot see the accused when you are giving evidence,
- having breaks from court, when you need to.

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Please be sure to plan your journey to court carefully, giving yourself plenty of time to get there.

If you need extra support in court

If you need any extra support when you attend court as a witness, please let your contact point know as soon as you can. Your contact point will be able to answer questions which you may have and help put arrangements in place as early as is possible to make your visit to court easier.

For example, you may need extra support if you:

- require an interpreter,
- have any cultural or religious needs,
- have reduced mobility,
- need help to hear or see properly,
- have a disability.

Expenses for attending court

Please speak to your contact point to find out if you are able to claim any expenses for attending court.