

Going to court can be a worrying time for children and young people.

You may feel more uneasy because of the impact of coronavirus on your hearing date. You might have some concerns about your safety.

This leaflet explains what HM Courts and Tribunals Service is doing to keep the justice system moving and to keep people safe.



Further information



If you have any questions, always check with the court before the day of your hearing.

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 going to a court

[gov.uk/what-to-expect-coming-to-a-court-or-tribunal](https://www.gov.uk/what-to-expect-coming-to-a-court-or-tribunal)

[gov.uk/going-to-a-court-or-tribunal-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak](https://www.gov.uk/going-to-a-court-or-tribunal-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak)

[gov.uk/keeping-court-and-tribunal-buildings-safe-secure-and-clean](https://www.gov.uk/keeping-court-and-tribunal-buildings-safe-secure-and-clean)

[gov.uk/hmcts-telephone-and-video-hearings-during-coronavirus-outbreak](https://www.gov.uk/hmcts-telephone-and-video-hearings-during-coronavirus-outbreak)



HM Courts &
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Coronavirus and court

Advice for under-18s attending court during the COVID-19 outbreak



Justice matters



Are courts still open?

Yes, but some courts are closed temporarily.

Only essential face-to-face, video and telephone hearings are taking place.

A judge or magistrate will decide if your case will be given a later date, heard in person or heard remotely (by video or phone).

You'll get a letter explaining the decision.

- ✓ **The guidelines for what to expect coming to court still apply** if you have to attend court in person.
- ✓ **The same advice on what to wear and how to behave applies to remote hearings by video.**




What if I have to go to court?

 **Only go to court if you've had a letter saying you must attend.**

If you come to court our priority is to keep everyone safe.

 **You can still bring a parent or guardian with you for support.**

 **Do not come** if you, or someone you live with, develops symptoms of the virus. If you or your parent or guardian are on the vulnerable list, inform the court immediately.

The only people in the courtroom are likely to be

- ✓ you and your parent or guardian
- ✓ the judge or panel
- ✓ one or two court staff.

Others involved, like solicitors, interpreters, appropriate adults, youth offending teams and probation may be there via video or phone.

The courts will make sure you have secure and private access to support by phone or video, if the solicitor isn't there in person.



What should I do if my hearing is held remotely?

Most remand court hearings are conducted by video link.

These are likely to be from police stations or custody facilities (like a young offender institution, secure training centre or secure children's home).

In other cases, your hearing may be organised remotely, by phone or video.

These hearings use secure software that's free and easy to use.

If we need to see you by video link, **you'll need a laptop or video-enabled device, like a tablet or mobile phone.**

- ✓ **You'll get a letter with instructions** and often, you just need to click on a web link.
- ✓ **You can still have a parent or guardian with you for support.**
- ✓ **You'll still have access to legal support** during a remote hearing.