

# VICTIM WITNESS *Assistance* PROGRAM



## **VICTIM WITNESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Office of the Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor

Greenville County Courthouse

**864-467-8647**

Pickens County Courthouse

**864-898-5905**

### **TIPS**

#### **For Being a Good Witness**

1. The most important thing is to tell the truth. If you do not know the answer or are not sure, just say so. Do not guess.
2. Listen to the questions carefully; answer questions clearly, and be courteous. If you do not understand, say, "I do not understand," and ask for clarification.
3. Do not volunteer information. Once you have answered each question, stop and wait for the next question to be asked.
4. If either attorney makes an objection, stop talking immediately and wait for the judge to rule. If the judge says, "overruled", you may answer. If the judge says "sustained", wait for the next question.
5. Be serious in and out of the courtroom. Avoid laughing and talking about the case in the hallway or restrooms. Do not talk to jurors about anything.
6. Proper dress and a neat appearance are important. Do not chew gum or tobacco and try to avoid distracting mannerisms such as putting your hand over your mouth.
7. Do not lose your temper or argue with the attorneys. If an attorney is rude, inconsiderate, or says things that are untrue, maintain your composure and do not argue.
8. The judge and the jury are interested only in the facts. Do not give your opinions or conclusions.
9. If you make a mistake, admit it immediately and correct it.
10. Be prepared to wait. There may be another case before yours, and you may have to wait to testify. You might want to bring a book to help pass the time.