Office for Witness Protection
Republic of South Africa
Admission to Witness Protection

Section 7(1) of Act 112 of 1998 states as follows:

“All witness who has reason to believe that his / her safety or the safety of any member of his / her extended family may be threatened by reason of being a witness, may apply for protection.”

- Extended family
- Operating model – remove from danger area
- Location information
Application for Witness Protection

The witness may report to:

• The Investigating Officer or Commander of a Police Station;

• A Public Prosecutor or Interested Functionary (Director of Public Prosecutions in the Region);

• Prison – Head of Prison or Social Worker;

• To the Office for Witness Protection at National or Regional Level
Stages of Witness Protection

Stage One:
• Admission

Stage Two:
• Witness management

Stage Three:
• Discharge
Considerations

The following has to be considered in this sphere:

• The character of the witness
• Criminal activities
• Adapt to limitation
• Protection Agreement
Services offered

- Accommodation
- Clothing
- Medical
- Schooling
- Detoxify and / or rehabilitate
Certain witnesses are removed / discharged from protection and returned to the investigating officer *inter alia*, the following reasons:

- Misleading information.
- Non-adherence to OWP Rules and Regulations.

Discharged on completion of testimony

- Resettlement agreement
General

- Voluntary admission.
- Response time.
- Remove witness from the danger area.
- Operating time 24/7
- Protection during judicial proceedings: Virtual testimony - commission
- Operational highlight.
International Co-operation

- Kenya
- Namibia
- Republic of Sri Lanka
- State versus H Okah
- ICC witnesses
Challenges

- Budget
- COVID 19
Thank you

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justice in our society so that people can live in freedom and security