

Office for Witness Protection Republic of South Africa



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

Admission to Witness Protection

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

“Any 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



Discharge

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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