

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB): Being a witness

If you experience any Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), you are called a witness and usually the best person to show the impact ASB has had.

Your evidence can really help us deal with the behaviour, especially if we have to take legal action against the person in court.

At Staffs Housing, we talk straight, we're honest and we're here to help you through the process of being a witness.



Being a witness to ASB

You'll need to keep a record what you have seen or heard.

To help build our case to stop the ASB, we may ask you to:

- Keep a nuisance diary and update it every time you experience a problem
- Agree to have monitoring equipment in your home
- Provide a witness statement, to be used as evidence in Court. This has details of your experience and how it has affected you
- Attend court to give evidence in person

Witnesses are the most important part of any legal action we take to resolve ASB.

In cases of serious ASB and cases over a long time, we may need to go to court to present our evidence to a Judge and ask for an order to help stop the ASB.

Only a judge can make this decision and they must decide if it is 'fair' and 'reasonable' to make an order against the defendant - the person who has caused you the problems.

To do this the Judge looks at all the facts presented to the court, which may include evidence from you and the defendant.

The statement you give will be given to the defendant by the court, as they have a right to see what evidence is being given against them.

Going to court

If you have to attend court you'll be accompanied by the solicitor acting on our behalf and a member of our staff (usually your housing officer).

At court your evidence will be presented to a judge. You may be asked some questions about your statement. Our solicitor will help and support you during the hearing. You'll also be given a copy of your statement so you don't need to remember it word for word.

We do not know how long this process will take, as it depends on the court's availability, the evidence presented and the type of Order we are asking for. It could take anything from a couple of weeks to several months.

Support we can give you

We understand that being a witness can be stressful, and we will give you as much support as you need, such as:

- Regular contact, giving you with updates, checking how you are and answering your questions
- Tenancy support
- Guidance on how to record details about incidents you have witnessed, including using nuisance diaries
- Continued investigation of any complaint and gathering evidence
- Temporary monitoring equipment to record the nuisance/disturbances
- Interpreting and translation services
- Support if you wish to move to another home
- Transport to court and visits beforehand so that you can familiarise yourself with the court process
- Witness support from trained court staff
- Someone to go with you to court and stay with you
- Help to make sure you feel secure in your home

Email: hello@staffshousing.org.uk

Call: 01782 744533

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We're open from 8.30 - 5.30 Monday to Friday.

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