

Alberta's Witness Security Program

Objective:

The purpose of the Alberta Witness Security Program (AWSP) is to administer the provision of protective services to witnesses and persons associated with them, whose safety or security may be at risk because of the involvement of the witness in the prosecution of criminal offences in Alberta.

Q. Who can apply for witness security?

Law enforcement agencies within the province of Alberta can apply on your behalf.

Q. What are the criteria for program entry?

A witness, or associated person must be formally assessed by the law enforcement agency to determine if their safety or security is at risk because of the involvement of the witness in the prosecution of a criminal offence. If the law enforcement agency decides protective services are necessary, they can apply to the AWSP for approval.

Q. What is a serious offence?

A serious offence is one where personal harm or death has occurred, such as;

- Homicide
- Human Trafficking
- Domestic Violence

Q. Who qualifies for witness security?

A witness is a person who is giving, has given or is expected to give evidence in the prosecution of a criminal offence in Alberta. As a result of their evidence their safety or security may be at risk. A witness must give their consent before an application can be submitted.

Q. Are relocation and name change the only options available for witnesses?

No. The AWSP is not an 'all or nothing' program. Other options for protective services may include: transportation to and from a safe place, accommodation, financial support, counselling and security services.

Q. How long will security measures be in place?

Each case is unique. Some situations require protective services for several days while other situations may require several months or longer.

For more information contact; wsc@gov.ab.ca

Alberta's *Witness Security Act* was proclaimed on April 1, 2012 that guides the Alberta Witness Security Program.