

**Spotlight** on the YLC

## Child Victim Waiting Rooms

**I**t is an unfortunate reality that many children who are testifying in court are forced to interact with their perpetrators and other stressed adults in the formal confines of the courtroom waiting area.

Too often the agony of the wait to testify is extended for long hours before an intense and emotionally draining trial. It would appear obvious that children in court need a safe place away from their perpetrators, where they're not re-victimized by unrealistic expectations of prolonged superlative behavior. Yet the rooms are simply not there.

Young lawyers across the country and in Virginia, in particular, have been at the forefront of an effort to provide such a "safe place" in child-victim waiting rooms. Even in rural jurisdictions where there is no physical space for such a room, circuit reps have been able to provide a discreet box of age-appropriate toys to provide a "zone of normalcy" for stressed or terrified child witnesses.

To find more about a courthouse Safe Place, contact the Children & the Law Liaison, Barry G. Logsdon, (757) 873-0873, Fax (757) 873-0717, [lawgs@juno.com](mailto:lawgs@juno.com). [🔗](#)