

## A Message to the Parents of a Child Victim/Witness

The criminal justice system may be difficult to understand and intimidating for children. Prosecutors have an obligation to educate child victims and child witnesses on what to expect when they appear in court. This is accomplished by acquainting children with courtroom proceedings ahead of time. The best and preferred way to help them through the process is to take them into an empty courtroom. In a courtroom setting, a prosecutor can explain to children the layout of a courtroom and the different individuals they may encounter while testifying.

This activity book was created to help introduce a child to a court of law prior to taking them into an empty courtroom. The goal of the Monterey County District Attorney's Office is to educate the child about the criminal justice system, help the child understand the nature of the proceedings, and to reduce the stress level of the child while testifying.

Easing the trauma of testifying in a court of law is our goal. If you or your child have any questions about the judicial process, ask the prosecutor or advocate assigned to your case. They, Odie and Namaste are here to help.

Jeannine M. Pacioni, District  
Attorney Monterey County

# WHERE DOES ODIE COME FROM?

Facility Dog Odile, better known as “Odie” was born on February 23, 2011. Odile is a French name meaning “wealthy, fortunate.” Odile is a variant of the Old German name Odila, and its meaning is “fortunate or prosperous in battle.”

Odie was placed in the Monterey County District Attorney’s Office in 2013 by Canine Companions for Independence®. Founded in 1975, Canine Companions® is a non-profit organization that enhances the lives of people with disabilities by providing highly trained assistance dogs and ongoing support to ensure quality partnerships.

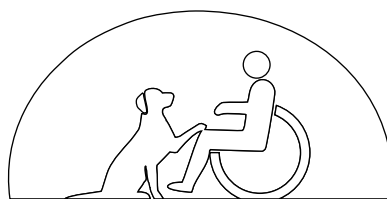
Canine Companions selectively breeds Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers and a cross of the two to be assistance dogs. Volunteers care for the breeder dogs and nurture newborn puppies for eight weeks. Canine Companions puppies spend the next 14-18 months with volunteer puppy raisers who provide basic obedience training, socialization and care.

After this period, dogs return to Canine Companions to be professionally trained. Canine Companions trains four types of assistance dogs: service dogs, hearing dogs, skilled companions and facility dogs. Service dogs assist adults with disabilities by performing daily tasks. Hearing dogs alert their partners, who are deaf and hard of hearing, to important sounds. Skilled companions enhance independence for children and adults with physical, cognitive and developmental disabilities. Facility dogs work with clients with special needs in a visitation, education, criminal justice or health care setting.

Odie is a facility dog, working with clients in a criminal justice setting. Odie specializes in assisting crime victims, witnesses and others during stressful stages of the legal proceedings including accompaniment during interviews and court hearings. The legal process may be intimidating to some; therefore, her calm demeanor and expert training makes her ideally suited to assist during these difficult times.

Canine Companions is an amazing organization that places these talented, caring and intelligent dogs with people with disabilities and facilities such as the Monterey County District Attorney’s Office, where they provide support, comfort and joy to hundreds.

For more information, visit [cci.org](http://cci.org)



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# WHERE DOES NAMASTE COME FROM?

Facility Dog Namaste, was born on July 1, 2016. Namaste is a Hindu greeting and can be used for saying hello and goodbye.

Namaste was placed in the Monterey County District Attorney's Office in 2018 by Canine Companions for Independence®. Founded in 1975, Canine Companions® is a non-profit organization that enhances the lives of people with disabilities by providing highly trained assistance dogs and ongoing support to ensure quality partnerships.

Canine Companions selectively breeds Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers and a cross of the two to be assistance dogs. Volunteers care for the breeder dogs and nurture newborn puppies for eight weeks. Canine Companions puppies spend the next 14-18 months with volunteer puppy raisers who provide basic obedience training, socialization and care.

After this period, dogs return to Canine Companions to be professionally trained. Canine Companions trains four types of assistance dogs: service dogs, hearing dogs, skilled companions and facility dogs. Service dogs assist adults with disabilities by performing daily tasks. Hearing dogs alert their partners, who are deaf and hard of hearing, to important sounds. Skilled companions enhance independence for children and adults with physical, cognitive and developmental disabilities. Facility dogs work with clients with special needs in a visitation, education, criminal justice or health care setting.

Namaste is a facility dog, working with clients in a criminal justice setting. Namaste specializes in assisting crime victims, witnesses and others during stressful stages of the legal proceedings including accompaniment during interviews and court hearings. The legal process may be intimidating to some; therefore, her calm demeanor and expert training makes her ideally suited to assist during these difficult times.

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