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# Courthouse Dogs® Foundation

## Planning • Preparing • Launching



*Courthouse Dogs Foundation is a nonprofit organization that promotes the use of facility dog to provide support to vulnerable people during stressful legal proceedings. These dogs are graduates from assistance dog organization that are members of Assistance Dogs International and they are handled by professionals working in the legal system,*

*These teams primarily provide this assistance during the investigation and prosecution of crimes and are of most help to children, who are often emotionally traumatized by this process. Recent research conducted at a children's hospital in the United States showed that the presence of these facility dogs reduced stress for children undergoing forensic interviews regarding allegations of child sexual assault.*

*Educating legal professionals about the benefits of including facility dogs in their practice can be challenging. Judges and defense attorneys are concerned that the presence of a facility dog in the witness box could unfairly prejudice the jury against the defendant. Court and office administrators worry about allergies, fear of dogs and potential liability issues due the presence of the dog in the workplace. And then there is the question of how and where a legal professional can obtain a facility dog that would suit their purpose.*

*Over the past ten years Courthouse House Dogs Foundation has been instrumental in the placement of over 100 facility dogs in the legal system. Here is how we do it.*

## PLANNING for your Courthouse Dog® Program.



