

HONG KONG STANDARD
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Aids to help handicapped 'still not used in courts'

VIDEO links and facilities for mentally-handicapped victims are not being used in indecent assault court cases.

The recommendations of a working party on the issue had not been implemented, said chairman of the Parents' Association of Pre-School Handicapped Children, Julie Lee.

Mrs Lee said that none of the recommendations, including the use of video evidence, had been applied in a district court case on 28 March, which involved a 15-year-old handicapped youth.

"The prosecutor told us that she understood all the suggestions, but she did not know when they would be implemented and how, so she did not ask the judge to use his discretion.

"The judiciary should draft professional guidelines to implement recommendations which do not involve changes in the law," Mrs Lee said.

Chairman of the sub-committee on Separate Legislation for the Mentally Handicapped, Fred Li, said legislators would ask the judiciary about progress at a meeting next week.

He said sub-committee members were told by Chief Justice Sir Ti Liang Yang that the judiciary had agreed with all the recommendations of the working group but needed time to iron out implementation details.