



# People with Learning Disabilities and the Scottish Criminal Justice System

## Information about the Police



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# Information about the Police

## “Supporting People with Learning Disabilities”





Police Officers need to know how to support people with learning disabilities.



People with learning disabilities have the same rights as anyone else when they have contact with the Police.



There are also services to support people with learning disabilities when they have contact with the Police.



There are special laws to help people with learning disabilities if they have contact with the Police.



## The Police should:



- Ask for an appropriate adult
  - An appropriate adult is not a Police Officer and cannot give legal advice



- An appropriate adult can help the person with a learning disability to:
  - Understand why they are being interviewed
  - Understand the questions the Police are asking



- An appropriate adult can help the Police to:
  - Speak to the person so that they can understand



- Know when to stop the interview if the person finds it difficult



- Ask if there is someone else who could support the person with a learning disability

# More Information and Resources

There is easy to understand information available from some of these organisations:

- Mencap's 'Make it Clear' campaign home page  
[www.mencap.org.uk/html/ldw/makeitclear/index.asp](http://www.mencap.org.uk/html/ldw/makeitclear/index.asp)
- Mencap 'Easy-to-use' pages  
[www.mencap.org.uk/html/easytoread/easytoread.asp](http://www.mencap.org.uk/html/easytoread/easytoread.asp)
- List of Books Beyond Words titles  
[www.rcpsych.ac.uk/publications/booksbeyondwords/bbwtitlesa-z.aspx](http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/publications/booksbeyondwords/bbwtitlesa-z.aspx)
- "Being a witness: a guide for child and adult vulnerable witnesses" - A CD Rom that includes useful information about going to court, video clips of witnesses giving evidence in court and using special measures, as well as a virtual tour of a courtroom. This is also available in DVD format.  
Published by the Scottish Government  
Copies are available by phoning: 0131 244 2213
- "Being a witness – going to court" - A booklet for adult witnesses in criminal and children's hearing court proceedings. Published by the Scottish Government  
Hard copies are available by phoning: 0131 244 2213  
[www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Justice/criminal/17416/InformationMaterials](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Justice/criminal/17416/InformationMaterials)
- "Being a witness – the use of special measures" - A booklet for adult witnesses in criminal and children's hearing court proceedings. Published by the Scottish Government. Hard copies are available by phoning: 0131 244 2213  
[www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Justice/criminal/17416/InformationMaterials](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Justice/criminal/17416/InformationMaterials)

- “What happens next?” A DVD resource for people with a learning disability  
Published by Lanarkshire ACE, Speak Out Advocacy Project. The DVD is available by phoning: 01355 230202.
- “Victims of Crime in Scotland” - A Scottish Government website with information for victims.  
[www.scottishvictimsofcrime.co.uk](http://www.scottishvictimsofcrime.co.uk)
- “I am a witness in court – a guide for people with learning disabilities” - An easy-read booklet published by the Scottish Government. Hard copies are available by phoning: 0131 244 2213.  
[www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Justice/criminal/17416/InformationMaterials](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Justice/criminal/17416/InformationMaterials)
- British Institute of Learning Disabilities, Advocacy homepage  
[www.bild.org.uk/04advocacy.htm](http://www.bild.org.uk/04advocacy.htm)
- Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities, Advocacy homepage  
[www.learningdisabilities.org.uk/page.cfm?pagecode=ISRVADAR](http://www.learningdisabilities.org.uk/page.cfm?pagecode=ISRVADAR)
- Voice UK, advice for advocacy and self-advocacy groups  
[www.voiceuk.org.uk/trainequalaccess2.htm](http://www.voiceuk.org.uk/trainequalaccess2.htm)
- The UK Advocacy Network (UKAN)  
[www.ukan.co.uk/index.html](http://www.ukan.co.uk/index.html)
- The New Mental Health Act: An Easy Read Guide  
[www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/09/03145057/0](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/09/03145057/0)



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