



People with Learning Disabilities and the Scottish Criminal Justice System

Information about Prison Services



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Information about the Prison Service

“Supporting people with Learning Disabilities”





People with learning disabilities are more likely to be **victims** or **witnesses** of crimes than commit crimes.



This guide aims to make sure that people with learning disabilities are supported and protected when they have contact with criminal justice services.



By the time someone with a learning disability goes to Prison, Criminal Justice Services should know that they have a learning disability.



Some people with learning disabilities need a lot of support in prison.



Some people with learning disabilities who are sent to prison become so distressed that they need to be transferred to a hospital for treatment.



Prison staff can contact the Scottish Forensic Network Learning Disability Service for help and advice.



FORENSIC MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
MANAGED CARE NETWORK
www.forensicnetwork.scot.nhs.uk



It is important to remember that some people with learning disabilities in prison can be victims of bullying or abuse.



People with learning disabilities should have access to educational or other programmes.



These programmes may need to be made easier for them to understand.



When someone with a learning disability is getting ready to be discharged from prison it is important to:

- Make sure that they are registered with a GP in their home area
- Make contact with their local Community Learning Disability Team if they need support



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
- Mencap 'Easy-to-use' pages
www.mencap.org.uk/html/easytoread/easytoread.asp
- List of Books Beyond Words titles
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
- "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

- “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
- “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
- British Institute of Learning Disabilities, Advocacy homepage
www.bild.org.uk/04advocacy.htm
- Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities, Advocacy homepage
www.learningdisabilities.org.uk/page.cfm?pagecode=ISRVADAR
- Voice UK, advice for advocacy and self-advocacy groups
www.voiceuk.org.uk/trainequalaccess2.htm
- The UK Advocacy Network (UKAN)
www.ukan.co.uk/index.html
- The New Mental Health Act: An Easy Read Guide
www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/09/03145057/0



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