

# What some of the words mean

**Caution:** If you are under arrest by the police, they have to caution you. The words of the caution are: “You do not have to say anything. But it may harm your defence if you do not mention when questioned something which you later rely on in court. Anything you do say may be given in evidence.” Many people find these words difficult to understand. If you do not understand the caution it is very important that you tell the police. The police will try to explain it.

The police will say almost the same words again before they speak to you on tape. You should tell the police or your **solicitor** or **legal advisor** (see below) if you do not understand the caution.

**Your rights:** The piece of paper that the custody officer gives you explains what you are allowed to do at the police station. It also explains what the police have to give you, such as drinks and meals if you are at the police station for a long time. You should ask the police to give you the easy read version of your rights.

**Liaison and diversion service:** Some police stations have nurses who help people who are under arrest and have an intellectual disability, autism, mental health or substance misuse needs. It is important to tell them if you have been helped by a community learning disability team or another team. They will help you get support from them.

**Interview:** This is when the police ask you questions to find out if you may have done a crime. At the beginning of Dave’s interview, the police officer gives him the caution again. The solicitor asks Dave to say what the caution means. He isn’t sure. The solicitor asks the police officer to explain the caution. The interview does not go on until the solicitor thinks Dave has understood the caution. Then the police officer questions Dave again. The solicitor is there to help Dave give his answers. Richard is there too. He helps Dave understand the questions and explain what he wants to say. But Richard does not speak for Dave.

### **Custody officer:**



The custody officer is a police officer. The custody officer's job is to look after all the people who are under arrest. Tell the custody officer if you need to take tablets or have other health needs or if you feel ill or upset. You should also tell the custody officer if you need support from an **appropriate adult** (see below).

### **Solicitor (or legal advisor):**



Solicitors know the law. They will help you if you are arrested. The solicitor is nothing to do with the police. They will not tell the police or anyone else what you have said. You are allowed to speak to them when you want, even if it is in the night.

It is very important to have a solicitor or legal advisor to help you. The police must ask you if you want one. You should always say 'yes', even if someone you know is giving you support. But if you say 'no', you can change your mind later. Don't worry if you do not know a solicitor. The police will help you get someone. Don't worry if you have no money. You do not have to pay.

### **Appropriate adult:**



The police must provide an appropriate adult to support any suspect being interviewed at a police station who has

- an intellectual disability
- mental health needs
- autism
- physical health needs like epilepsy or cerebral palsy
- difficulties with speaking, hearing or seeing.

The appropriate adult could be from your family, or a person who helps you where you live, or a nurse, or someone else who has had special training. The appropriate adult has to make sure that you are told everything in a way that you understand. And that people understand you when you speak.

The appropriate adult also has to make sure that you are treated properly. The appropriate adult must be with you if the police ask you to sign anything or if the police talk to you on tape. He or she must be with you if you are asked to provide a sample, like your DNA (from a mouth swab), or some of your hair or blood. The appropriate adult must also be with you if the police decide to charge you. Tell the police if you don't know anyone who can help you. The police will find someone.

### **Nurse:**



The police will call a doctor or a nurse if you have an intellectual disability or a mental health need or you take tablets, or if you have other difficulties. Any doctor or nurse is independent. This means they are nothing to do with the police. It is important to tell them you have an intellectual disability or autism or mental health needs.

### **Mental health worker:**



There are different kinds of mental health workers. They include community nurses, clinical psychologists, and psychiatrists. Usually, mental health workers work together as a community learning disability team (see Useful resources) but they may come from another team. They give you support and treatment so you are less likely to go on trial/ be under arrest again. They also support the people who care for you, like your family or support workers at your house.