

ARREST:

An easy read guide



Supporting
Offenders
with Learning
Disabilities

Compiled on behalf
of the SOLD Network

by





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What is a crime?

If you have broken a law the Police will want to talk to you. This is also called “committing a crime”.

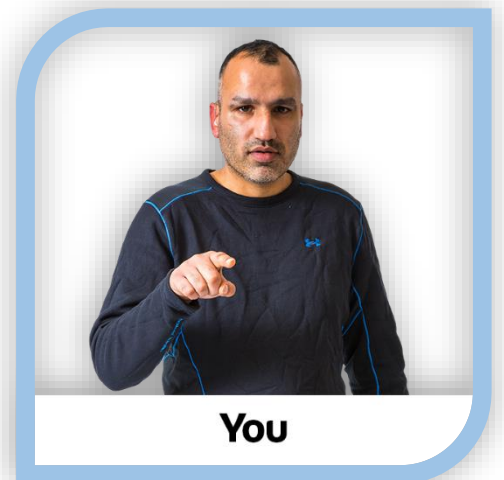
If you want to know about different types of crime - look at our ‘Is it a crime?’ guide.



Being arrested

If the police want to ask you questions, it is best to tell them about your learning difficulty.

You should ask for an Appropriate Adult. They can help you understand what is happening.



The Police might say “I am arresting you” if they think you have broken the law.

This means you have to go with them to the police station.

The Police will tell you about your rights.



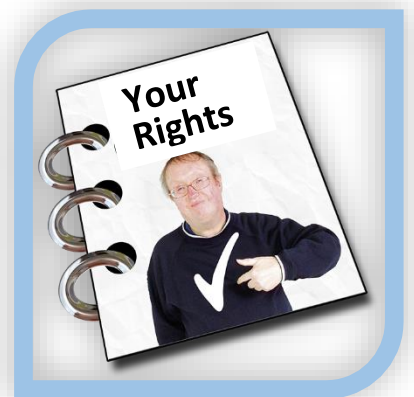
This means what you are allowed to do.

Then they will ask if you understand.

Only say “Yes” if you understand everything they have said.

If you want to know about your rights – get help to look at the easy read version of ‘the letter of rights’.

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/01/5603/downloads#res-1>



The police can put handcuffs on you when you are arrested.

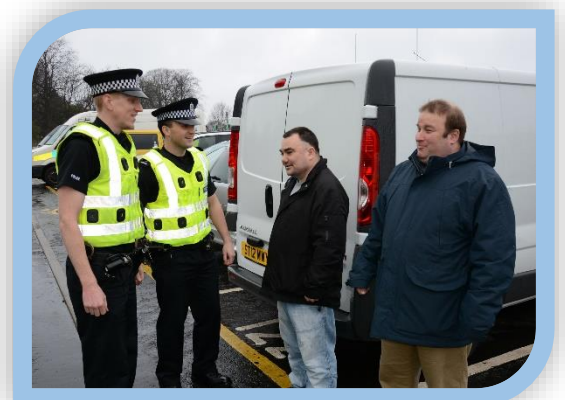


When you are arrested you have to tell the Police –

- Your name
- Your date of birth
- Your address
- What country you are from

If you do not tell the police these things you are breaking the law.

You do not need to tell the police anything else.



At the police station

The police will take you to the custody desk. They will ask you some questions there.



The police will ask if you want them to tell someone where you are.

You can chose who they speak to for you.
You will not be allowed to speak.

It could be:

- Your husband, wife or partner
- Your mum or dad
- Someone who supports you
- A friend



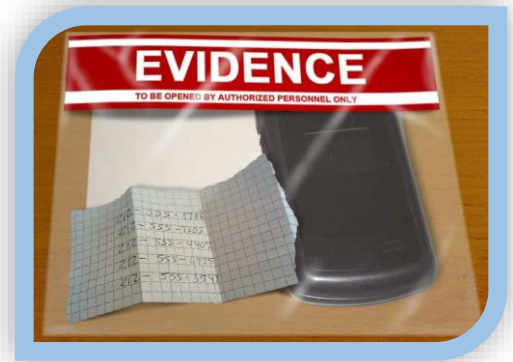
The police will ask for all the things you have with you, including:

- Money
- Belt
- Watch
- Jewellery
- Phone
- Bag
- Shoe laces
- Draw strings from clothes



The police will put your things in a bag. They will keep them until you leave the police station.

Sometimes the police will keep things as evidence. This means they might be linked to a crime.



It is important that you tell the police if you have any health problems or need to take medicines.



You might have to wait in a police cell. The door will be locked.

There is a button in the cell. You should press it if you need help.



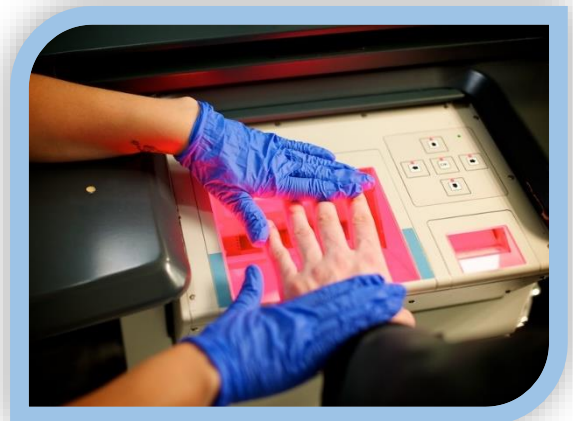
What the police will need from you

If the police think you have been involved in a crime.

The police will take your photo for their records.

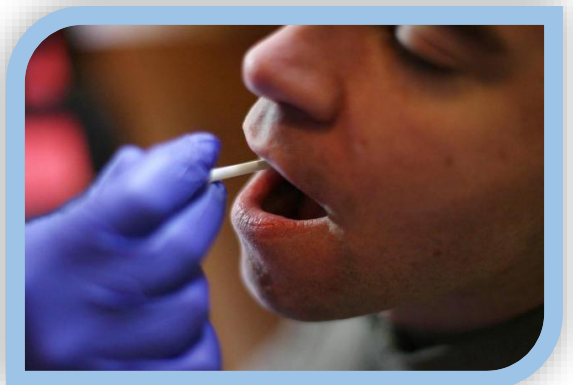


The police will take a copy of your fingerprints. They use a machine to do this.



The police will take a sample from inside your mouth.

It does not hurt.



Police Interview

The police will interview you. This means ask you questions about the crime.

Before this you can speak to a solicitor on the phone.

A solicitor is a lawyer who can give advice about what to say to the police. It is a good idea to listen to the solicitor.



The police will take you to another room. This is the interview room.

An Appropriate Adult can be there with you.



The Appropriate Adult is someone that can help you understand what the police are saying.

It is important to say if you do not understand.

The Appropriate Adult cannot give you advice.



You can ask to have a solicitor with you in the interview.

Or you can ask to phone the solicitor at any time in the interview.

The solicitor can help you and give you advice.



The police will record all the questions and answers.

This means it could be played in court later.



You do not need to answer any of the police questions.

Instead you can say nothing or “No comment”.

Try to remember what the solicitor tells you.



During the interview it is important to tell the police

- If you need a break.
- If you do not understand.
- If you want to speak to your solicitor on your own.



After the interview you will go back to the cell to wait.

The Police will come and tell you what is happening next.



The Police can keep you at the Police station for up to 12 hours to decide if are going to charge you with a crime.



In some special cases the Police can keep you for 24 hours to decide if they are going to charge you. This needs to be agreed by a high ranking police officer.



What Happens Next?

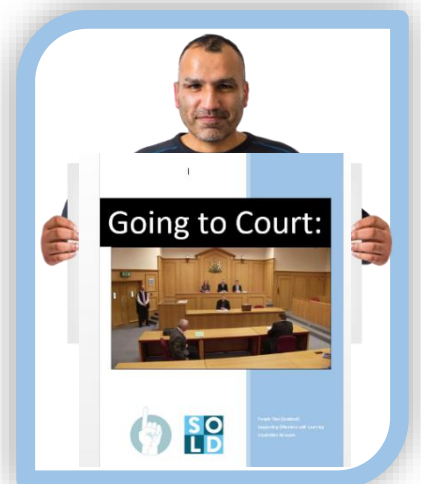
The Police will decide what will happen next.
These are the things that could happen.



1. The police let you go without charging you. This means you are free to go.
2. The Police give you a Caution. This is a warning that you have done something wrong and you better not do it again.
3. You are charged with a crime and the police let you go home. This means you will get a letter about going to court in a few weeks.
4. You are charged with a crime and the police keep you at the station until you go to court. This will be on the next day the court is open.

If you have to go to court – look at our
'Going to Court' guide.

If you are going to court it is important to get
help from a lawyer.



Useful Contacts

The law Society Scotland	0131 226 7411	http://www.lawscot.org.uk/
Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal service	01389 739 557	http://www.crownoffice.gov.uk/
Scottish Legal Aid Board	0131 226 7061	http://www.slab.org.uk/
Police Scotland	101	http://www.scotland.police.uk/
To complain about Police Scotland	101	http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/police-scotland/complaints-about-the-police/how-to-make-a-complaint/
Supporting Offenders with Learning Disabilities Network	0131 663 4444	https://soldnetwork.org.uk/
People First (Scotland)	0131 478 7707	http://peoplefirstscotland.org/
Victim Support Scotland	0345 603 9213	https://www.victimsupportsco.org.uk/
Samaritans	116 123	http://www.samaritans.org/how-we-can-help-you
Other easy read information about the justice system		http://www.keyring.org/cjs/easy-read