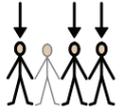


The Widgit Symbol Custody Sheet Pilot Project



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Many people who commit crimes have learning difficulties.



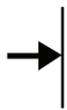
The police give people information to read in custody.



The information can be be confusing.



It is important to know your rights in custody.



We added Symbols to the information.



Symbols can help people understand difficult information.

* If an oral translation or summary through an interpreter instead of a written translation is enough for you to defend yourself and to fully understand what is happening and the custody officer's instructions. When the police ask you questions and don't make an audio recording, the interpreter will make a record of the questions and your answers in your own language. This will be able to check this before you sign it as an accurate record. If you want to make a statement to the police, the interpreter will make a copy of that statement in your own language for you to check and sign as correct.

People who are not British
If you are not British, you can tell the police that you want to contact your High Commissioner, embassy or consulate to tell them when you open and why you are in the police station. They can also visit you in prison or arrange for a solicitor to see you.

5. Times when the normal rules are different
Getting a solicitor to help you

There are some special times when the police urgently need to ask you questions before you have talked to a solicitor. Information about these special times is given in the Codes of Practice. This is the book that sets out what the police can and cannot do while you are at the police station. If you want to look up the details, they are in paragraph 6.8 of Code C of the Codes of Practice. There is one special time when the police will not let you speak to the solicitor that you have chosen. When this happens you must be allowed to choose another solicitor. If you want to look up the details, it is in Annex E of Code C of the Codes of Practice.

Telling someone that you are at the police station
There are some special times when the police will not allow you to contact anyone. Information about these special times is given in the Codes of Practice. If you want to look up the details, it is in Annex E of Code C of the Codes of Practice.

Drugs tests
If you are under arrest because of a drink-drive offence, you have the right to speak to a solicitor. That right does not mean you can refuse to give the police samples of blood, saliva or urine even if you have not yet spoken to the solicitor.

Detention under the Mental Health Act 1983

The police can take a person to a police station for assessment under the Mental Health Act. If you have been taken to a police station under the Mental Health Act this does not mean that you have been arrested for an offence.

It means that the police must arrange for you to be seen by a doctor and an approved mental health professional. They can not make the assessment. You must be assessed within 72 hours from the time of your arrival at the police station but the police will try to arrange this as soon as possible. During the time the police may transfer you to a more suitable location to enable the assessment to take place.

While waiting for your assessment, the police may arrange for you to be seen by an approved healthcare practitioner. They can not make the assessment but they will help you with any other health concerns you may have and help explain what the assessment means.

Independent custody visitors

There are members of the community who are allowed access to police stations unannounced. They can visit an independent custody visitor and work on a voluntary basis to make sure that detained people are being treated properly and have access to rights.

You do not have a right to see an independent custody visitor and cannot request that an independent custody visitor visit you. If an independent custody visitor does visit you while you are in custody they will be acting independently of the police to check that your welfare and rights have been protected. However, you do not have to speak to them if you do not wish to.

How to make a complaint

If you want to complain about the way you have been treated, ask to speak to a solicitor, a police officer who is an inspector or a higher rank. After being released, you can also make a complaint at any police station, to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) or through a solicitor or your MP on your behalf.

0300 60174



The following rights and entitlements are guaranteed to you under the law in England and Wales and comply with the European Convention on Human Rights.

Remember your rights

1. Tell the police if you want a solicitor to help you while you are at the police station. It is free.
2. Tell the police if you want someone to be told that you are at the police station. It is free.
3. Tell the police if you want to look at their notes - they are called the Codes of Practice.
4. Tell the police if you need medical help. It is free.

You will find more details about your rights and how you should be treated and cared for by the police inside the leaflet.

Home Office Legal Aid Agency The Law Society

Support

- You can have an interpreter if you do not speak English.
- You can have a British Sign Language English interpreter to help you if you are deaf or have difficulty speaking.
- If you are not British you can contact your High Commissioner, embassy or consulate.
- An appropriate adult will help you with police procedures.

Breath test

If you have been arrested for a drink-driving offence, you will have to give a breath blood or urine sample.

You do not need to see a solicitor before giving a sample.

Mental Health Act

The police can detain you under the Mental Health Act. This does not mean you have been arrested.

If you are detained under the Mental Health Act, you must be seen by a doctor for assessment.

Special Times

Sometimes the police need to talk to you before you see a solicitor...

...you can read more about this in paragraph 6.8 Code C of the Codes of Practice.

Independent Custody Visitor

You may be visited by an independent custody visitor. They check you are being looked after properly.

Complaints

If you are think you are being treated wrong, you can complain.

You can ask to speak to a police officer of a higher rank to make a complaint.

You can also complain to the Independent Police Complaints Commission, your solicitor or MP.

Know your rights in custody

- The police must tell you about the offence they think you have committed and why you are arrested and detained.
- You can speak to a solicitor free of charge.
- You can tell someone you have been arrested.
- You can read the police Codes of Practice.
- You can receive free medical help.
- You can ask questions anytime.



Information without symbols



Information with symbols



2014

The sheets were tested in Hampshire during August 2014.



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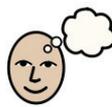
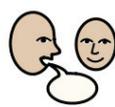


The sheets were tested in two custody centres.

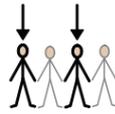


We asked people what they thought of the sheets.

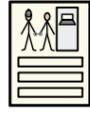
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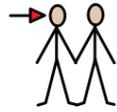
Forty one people told us their thoughts.



The police gave the sheets to some people in custody.



The police thought the sheets were a good idea.



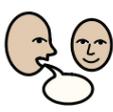
Other people who work with the police liked the sheets too.



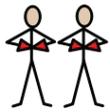
Young people with autism and their families saw the sheets.



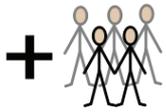
They thought the sheets would help people in custody.



People told us their ideas to improve the information.



We could make some changes to the sheets.



More



police



in



Hampshire



could



test



the sheets.



We



need



to ask what



people



in custody



think



of the sheets

3



organisations



worked on



the sheets.



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They were Autism Hampshire, Hampshire Constabulary and Widgit.



The Appropriate Adult Service

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helped



test



the sheets.



Sarah Parsons

+



and Gina Sherwood



did testing

+



and wrote



the report.

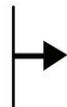


Sarah

+



and Gina



are from

the

UNIVERSITY OF
Southampton

University of Southampton.