

The Interview

At the start of the interview the child/young person should be cautioned and told that they have the right to silence.

Make sure the child/young person understands what is happening and that he or she understands the questions.

You are not there simply to watch the interview, you can interrupt or ask to stop the interview if you want to speak to the child/young person or if you decide that you want a solicitor present.

The child/young person should only be questioned on the offence for which they were originally brought to the Police Station. If the Police wish to ask questions regarding any other offence, then the interview should be stopped and the child/young person should then be arrested for the other offence.

There are a few things that can happen after the interview:

1. The child/young person is charged with the offence and held for court or bailed.
2. No further action is taken and the young person is released.
3. Bailed to return to the Police Station at a later date.

After the interview the child/young person will be charged with the offence if there is enough evidence.

You can request a copy of the written record that the Custody Officer has been keeping.

You may not be able to get this immediately but can either ask the Custody Officer the address you need to write to, to get a copy, or to get a copy through your solicitor

For further information please contact:

Calderdale Youth Offending Team
3 Trinity Place
Halifax
HX1 1BD

Telephone
01422 368279

Fax
01422 368483

E-mail
info@calderdaleyot.org.uk

Equal Opportunities

At all times you have the right to be treated fairly and without discrimination. This means the Youth Offending Panels and YOT staff will treat you fairly whatever your race, colour, sex, sexuality or disability. You are also expected to behave equally fairly towards other people.

Complaints Procedure

If you feel you have been treated unfairly or unreasonably by the YOT or Youth Offender Panels you can make a complaint. To do this, contact the Calderdale YOT Manager at the above address.

Data Protection

The Calderdale Youth Offending Team deals with personal data under the Data Protection Act 1998. Some of these may be sensitive such as criminal offences, proceedings and convictions. We may share some or all of them with other Council departments, our agents, service providers or other third parties. When involving any third party we shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that they will keep your personal data secure and treat it confidentially. If you are worried about giving us your personal details or about us sharing them with others, please discuss this with the member of staff who is dealing with your case.
We will explain what you can do.

Accessibility

These information leaflets are available in a number of different formats and languages from our Halifax office, or from our website.

Calderdale
Youth Offending
Team

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Appropriate Adult

At the Police Station



Making Calderdale Safer

What is an Appropriate Adult?

An Appropriate Adult is a person asked to attend the Police Station when a child or young person between the ages of ten and sixteen is being held there. The main concern is not the guilt or innocence of the child/young person but his/her emotional and physical well being.

Who can be an Appropriate Adult?

- A parent or guardian
- A trained YOT volunteer
- Failing either of the above, another responsible adult aged eighteen or over

What type of person makes a good Appropriate Adult?

Someone who:

- Is interested in the needs of young people
- Is non-judgemental
- Has an understanding approach
- Is reliable and punctual
- Is a good communicator
- Is not employed by the Police

What are the main roles of an Appropriate Adult?

- To give support and advice to the detainee
- To facilitate communication between the police and the detainee
- To ensure police interviews are conducted fairly and properly
- To check welfare issues
- To look at Custody Records to ensure the child/young person has been treated properly
- To make sure the child/young person understands the interview process
- An Appropriate Adult can also delay interviews if they feel it is necessary

A parent or guardian should not act as the Appropriate Adult when they are:

- Suspected of having an involvement in the offence
- A victim of the offence
- A witness to the offence
- Involved in the investigation

A solicitor **cannot** act as an Appropriate Adult

When you arrive at the Station

Find out who the Custody Officer is, as this is the person responsible for making sure that the child/young person knows their rights. The Custody Officer will also keep a written record of all that has happened so far and you can ask to see this or ask what has happened so far.

The rights of the child/young person are:

- (a) The right to have someone informed of his or her arrest.
- (b) The right to free legal advice (except in exceptional circumstances). Free legal advice can be requested at any time if it was refused at first, even during the interview. If you have never used a solicitor before, ask the Custody Sergeant for a list of solicitors.
- (c) The right to consult the Codes of Practice (notes which state how the Police should treat young people).

The child/young person has to be given their rights in your presence.

The Custody Sergeant will give advice.

Ask whether the child/young person is there voluntarily or has been arrested. If it is on a voluntary basis then they can leave at any time.

You can ask to speak to the child/young person in private.