

acting as an appropriate adult

Information for parents/carers

Warwickshire Youth Offending Team

YOT

When your child has been arrested it is important that you make sure that they get fair treatment – no matter what they have been arrested for. You may feel angry about what has happened but try to stay calm so that you are able to support him/her.

AS A PARENT YOU CAN ACT AS AN 'APPROPRIATE ADULT' FOR YOUR CHILD

An 'Appropriate Adult' is someone that supports a young person when they have been arrested. This means you can observe the interview between your child and the police, called a PACE interview (Police And Criminal Evidence Act interview), to ensure that it is carried out fairly and properly. Sometimes this role can be difficult because you may need to ask the police questions about what is happening.

BEFORE GOING TO THE POLICE STATION

- 1. Make any arrangements you need to, as you may be at the police station for a long time**
- 2. Get a solicitor: a solicitor can help prepare your child for the police interview.**

AT THE POLICE STATION

If you do not have a solicitor, ask the custody officer at the police station if a duty solicitor has been called. You can ask for a solicitor to act on your child's behalf free of charge. Be prepared to wait for the solicitor to arrive at the police station.

If you need advice or support you may contact the Youth Offending Team during office hours (telephone numbers on back cover) or the Emergency Duty Team out of office hours (01926 886922).

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO ON ARRIVAL AT THE POLICE STATION?

You do not have to wait for the solicitor before seeing your child alone in private.

You should see your child to:

- ensure he/she is in a fit state to be interviewed – if not, you may ask for the interview to be delayed
- ensure he/she has been given his/her rights verbally and in writing
- check that he/she understands why a solicitor should attend.

Remember he/she is entitled to food and drink at any time if needed.

A duty inspector should also be reviewing your child after 6 hours then every 9 hours up to a maximum of 24 hours to check on his/her health and wellbeing.

WHAT DO I DO DURING THE INTERVIEW?

Be prepared to speak on tape and say your name and who you are e.g. “John Smith, father of Chris”.

When the tape begins you may also be asked to explain your role. When acting as ‘Appropriate Adult’ you can use your own words e.g. “My role is to ensure this interview and detention is run properly and fairly”.

ENSURE YOUR CHILD UNDERSTANDS THE CAUTION GIVEN TO HIM/HER

Inappropriate questioning may be where the interviewing officer raises his/her voice or leans over your child which can be seen as threatening.

Leading questions can be something like “... you were there at the time, so you did do it, didn't you?”.

You should ask for this to stop.

INTERVENE

If you don't understand a question, say so. Ask the officer to explain what he or she is trying to say or to put the question in another way.

ASK FOR A BREAK

If you have any doubts about the relevance of the questioning, consult with your solicitor. If your child becomes distressed you can ask for a break in the procedure.

MAKE NOTES AND GET THE TAPE

You may take notes during the interview and you may ask for a copy of the interview tape. This may be ready for you to take away with you or it will be sent to you in the post. The solicitor may also take a copy of the tape.

When the interview is finished, countersign the tape seals if you are satisfied that it is a true record of the interview.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE INTERVIEW?

Following the interview your child may be charged and bailed, or bailed to return to the police station at a later date.

If charged you should accompany him/her through any fingerprinting, photographing and DNA procedures. These can be taken without consent if charged, or following an admission of guilt.

If bailed countersign the bail form (47/3) and note the date, time and any conditions attached to the bail. You will be given a copy of the form.

Check the returned property and countersign the property return form.

WHAT IF I WANT TO MAKE A COMPLAINT?

There is a complaints procedure available at the police station if you wish to make a complaint against any person or part of the process involved in the detention of your child. Ask to speak to the Duty Inspector or your solicitor for advice on how to complain.

The police should have a leaflet explaining your rights that you can take home with you.

CONTACTS

Warwickshire County Council
departments of Education and Social
Services, in partnership with
Warwickshire Health Authority,
Warwickshire Probation, Warwickshire
Police with Bail/Remand Services
provided by Barnardos.

Diane Johnson

Youth Offending Team Manager

If this information is difficult to
understand, we can provide it in
another format for example in large
print, on audio tape, in another
language or through discussion.

**Rugby Office (covering Coleshill,
Atherstone, Bedworth, Nuneaton and
Rugby areas)**

Warwickshire Youth Offending Team
Newton Hall
Lower Hillmorton Road
Rugby
CV21 3TU

Telephone: 01788 331256

**Warwick Office (covering Warwick,
Leamington and Stratford areas)**

Warwickshire Youth Offending Team
Sterling House
12 Hamilton Terrace
Hollywalk
Leamington Spa
CV32 4LY

Telephone: 01926 736200



Warwickshire
County Council



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE