



People with Learning Disabilities and the Scottish Criminal Justice System

Information about Criminal Justice Social Work Services



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Information about Criminal Justice Social Work Services

“Supporting people with
Learning Disabilities”





People with learning disabilities would come into contact with Criminal Justice Social Work Services if they have been found guilty by a court.



Sometimes witnesses and victims who have a learning disability come into contact with Criminal Justice Social Work Services.



There are laws to protect the rights of people with learning disabilities in the criminal justice system.



The Procurator Fiscal may refer the person to Criminal Justice Social Work Services *instead* of making them go to court.



Some people with learning disabilities may re-offend when they leave prison.

Throughcare Services can help people with learning disabilities by:



➤ Being involved in planning for discharge from Prison

➤ Supervising some people discharged from Prison

➤ Working with some people discharged from Prison for up to a year after discharge



➤ Some people have to accept support as part of their discharge from Prison

More Information and Resources

There is easy to understand information available from some of these organisations:

- Mencap's 'Make it Clear' campaign home page
www.mencap.org.uk/html/ldw/makeitclear/index.asp
- Mencap 'Easy-to-use' pages
www.mencap.org.uk/html/easytoread/easytoread.asp
- List of Books Beyond Words titles
www.rcpsych.ac.uk/publications/booksbeyondwords/bbwtitlesa-z.aspx
- "Being a witness: a guide for child and adult vulnerable witnesses" - A CD Rom that includes useful information about going to court, video clips of witnesses giving evidence in court and using special measures, as well as a virtual tour of a courtroom. This is also available in DVD format.
Published by the Scottish Government
Copies are available by phoning: 0131 244 2213
- "Being a witness – going to court" - A booklet for adult witnesses in criminal and children's hearing court proceedings. Published by the Scottish Government
Hard copies are available by phoning: 0131 244 2213
www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Justice/criminal/17416/InformationMaterials
- "Being a witness – the use of special measures" - A booklet for adult witnesses in criminal and children's hearing court proceedings. Published by the Scottish Government. Hard copies are available by phoning: 0131 244 2213
www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Justice/criminal/17416/InformationMaterials

- “What happens next?” A DVD resource for people with a learning disability
Published by Lanarkshire ACE, Speak Out Advocacy Project.
The DVD is available by phoning: 01355 230202.
- “Victims of Crime in Scotland” - A Scottish Government website with information for victims. www.scottishvictimsofcrime.co.uk
- “I am a witness in court – a guide for people with learning disabilities” - An easy-read booklet published by the Scottish Government. Hard copies are available by phoning: 0131 244 2213.
www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Justice/criminal/17416/InformationMaterials
- British Institute of Learning Disabilities, Advocacy homepage
www.bild.org.uk/04advocacy.htm
- Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities, Advocacy homepage
www.learningdisabilities.org.uk/page.cfm?pagecode=ISRVADAR
- Voice UK, advice for advocacy and self-advocacy groups
www.voiceuk.org.uk/trainequalaccess2.htm
- The UK Advocacy Network (UKAN) www.ukan.co.uk/index.html
- The New Mental Health Act: An Easy Read Guide
www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/09/03145057/0



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