

IF YOU ARE ARRESTED BY THE POLICE

If you're arrested, you'll usually be taken to a police station, held in a cell and then questioned. After you have been taken to a police station, you may be released or charged with a crime. The custody officer at the police station must explain your rights.

You have the right to:

- get free legal advice
- tell someone where you are – phone the emergency number
- have medical help if you're feeling ill
- see the rules the police must follow ('Codes of Practice')
- see a written notice telling you about your rights - eg regular breaks for food and to use the toilet (you can ask for a notice in your language)

You'll be searched and your possessions will be kept by the police custody officer while you're in the cell.

Your rights when being questioned

The police may question you about the crime you're suspected of - this will be recorded. You don't have to answer the questions but there could be consequences if you don't. The police must explain this to you by reading you the police caution: "You do not have to say anything. However, it may harm your defense if you do not mention when questioned something which you later rely on in court. Anything you do say may be given in evidence."