

If You Are Arrested

A guide to
what happens
in Custody.

- ✓ Photographs
- ✓ Plain English





Arrest



If the police think you have committed a **crime**, you will be arrested.



You might have **handcuffs** put on your wrists.



You will be taken to the **Police Station** in a car or van.

Arriving in Custody



You will be taken to a secure part of the police station. This is called '**Custody**'.



You may be asked to wait with a police officer in a '**holding cell**'.



Then you will be taken to the **desk**.

At the Desk



You will be asked some **questions**.



You will have to give in your **belongings**. They will be kept safe and you will get them back when you leave.



You can ask the custody officers to **call someone** to tell them you have been arrested.

Extra Help



You can ask to see a **solicitor**. You will not have to pay.



You can have an **appropriate adult** to help you. This could be a friend, family, social worker, carer, or anyone over 18.



You can see a **nurse** if you need to.

Your Cell



A **cell** is a small, locked room. You will be asked to take off your **belt and shoes** before you go in.



There is usually a **toilet** in the cell, and a button you can press to call for **help**.



You will be offered **food and drinks**.

Interview



You can talk to a **solicitor** before your interview.



At the interview, the police will ask **questions** and try to find out what happened.



If it lasts a long time, you can go back to your cell for a **drink and something to eat** if you need to.

Police Records



Fingerprints

You will be asked to put your hand onto a machine.



Photo

You will have your photo taken.



DNA

The inside of your mouth will be gently brushed with a cotton bud.

What Next?



One of these 4 things will happen next:

1. No further action will be taken.

This means you can go home. There is not enough evidence to continue with the case.

2. Police Bail. You will be able to leave custody. You will be given a form to return to the Police station. The police will be collecting more evidence about your case during this time.

What Next?



3. **Court bail.** You will be released but will have to go to court another day. This means you have been charged with an offence. You will be given lots of paperwork which you should give to your solicitor.

4. For very serious cases you may be charged and kept in the police station until you are taken to court. This is usually the next day.

These things will be clearly explained to you by police staff. Your appropriate adult or your solicitor will be able to help you.



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