

So you've

been arrested



**HEDDLU
GOGLEDD CYMRU
NORTH WALES
POLICE**



A guide to custody for young people

When you arrive at the Police Station:

- The officers will tell the person behind the desk why they have brought you to the police station.
- The person behind the desk is the Custody Sergeant.
- It's the custody Sergeants job to make sure you are looked after properly whilst you are at the police station.
- The police will ask you about your health – it is important you give as much information as possible.
- You may be searched when you get to the police station.



At the Police Station:

- You can speak to a solicitor (this is free and the solicitor does not work for the police)
- You can get help if you feel unwell or are hurt
- You are in a safe place. If there is something that is worrying you, you can talk to someone
- If you are a girl, you can ask to speak to a female member of staff.
- The police will tell your parent or carer that you are at the police station.
- If you don't understand your rights you can ask a police officer.



Any items you have with you when you are arrested may be taken from you.

The police will keep these safe. You may get these back when you are released or they may be kept as evidence.

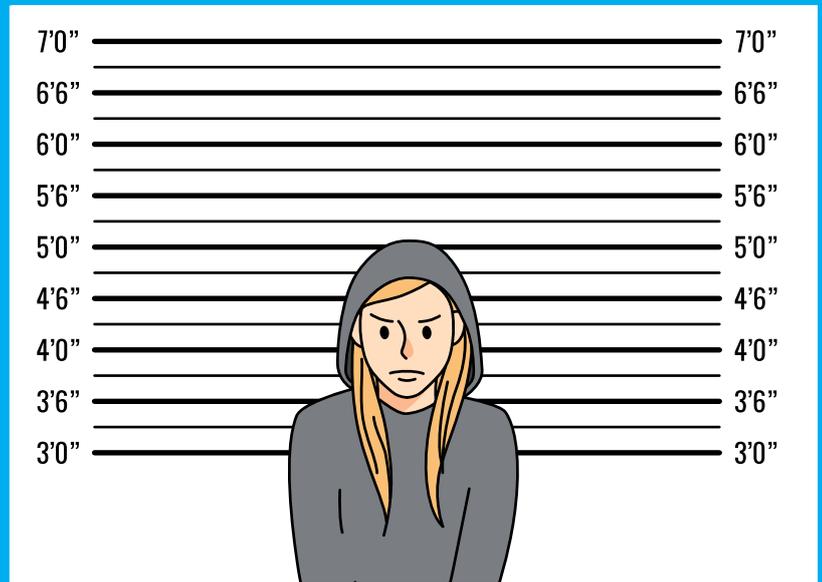
The police will find you an appropriate adult to come to the police station and be with you as soon as possible. The appropriate adult will make sure you are ok. They will either stay with you until you are interviewed or go away and come back when the police are ready to interview you. It can be your parent/grandparent/guardian or someone from the youth justice service.



A solicitor is someone who makes sure that you understand all of the legal words and also can give you advice. You have a right to speak to a solicitor for free.

Things the police may do:

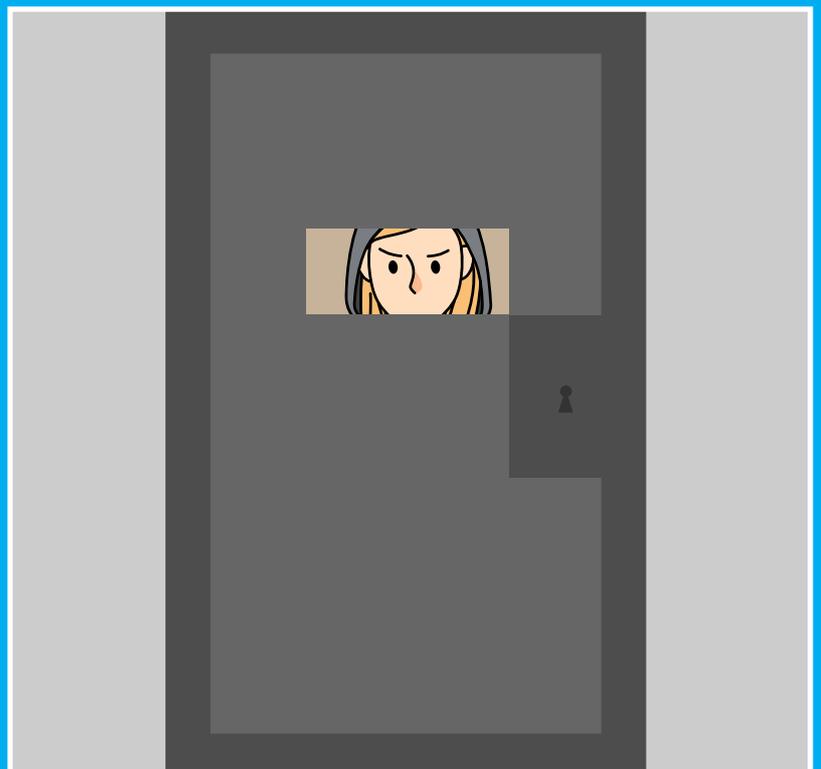
- Measure your height
- Take your photo
- Take a sample of your DNA
- Scan your fingerprints



In the cell:

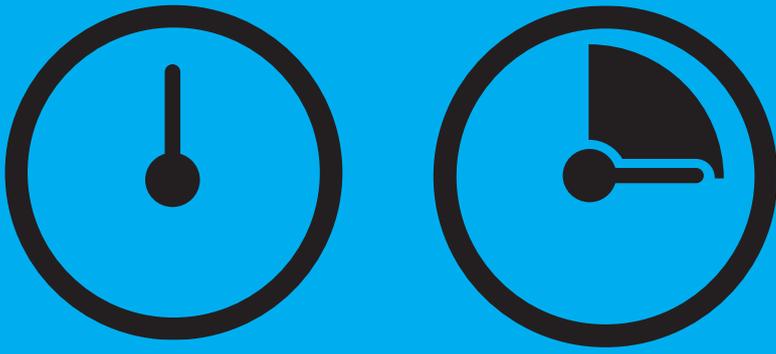
If you have any health needs, or take medication, you should tell the police officer. You may ask for a shower and exercise, and will be offered food. If you have any religious needs the police will try and make sure you have everything you need.

You can ask for a book or a football or some puzzles to help you pass the time.



The custody sergeant will check on you to make sure you are ok and have everything you need.

The police won't always know how long you will be kept in for – it is usually around 4-5 hours.



The police can keep you in custody for up to 24hrs – one whole day and night.

The interview:

- You can speak to your solicitor before the interview and the solicitor and appropriate adult can be in the interview with you
- There might be two police officers in the interview
- If you answer “no comment”, the police will still ask all of their questions
- You can ask for a break if you want one.



You will be taken back to the cell while the police make a decision – they will try and do this quickly.

What might happen next:

RELEASED

If the investigation is not complete, you will be released, you may be given a date to come back to the police station this will be referred to as bail.

You might have some rules to follow e.g. being back home for a certain time or not going to certain places.

You may hear this being called conditional bail or bail conditions. If you are charged, you will be given a date to go to court.

REMAND

The police have decided to charge you with the offence.

You may be given somewhere to stay overnight or, as a last resort, kept in a police cell.

NO FURTHER ACTION

The police have decided not to charge you and you are free to leave the police station.

LEAVING THE POLICE STATION:

Before you leave the police station, the police officer will make sure you are safe when you are released. You will be given your property back (e.g. your mobile phone and your wallet) unless it is being kept for evidence. The police officer and your appropriate adult will discuss how you are getting home. The police may be able to take you home, or ask your parent/carer to come and collect you.



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If you require any further information or support going through the process, please contact the Youth Justice Service for your area:

Gwynedd & Mon - 01248 679183

Conwy & Denbighshire - 01492 577377

Flintshire - 01352 701125

Wrexham - 01978 298739

