

# In Youth Custody



**What to expect if your son/daughter with a learning disability has to go into youth custody**

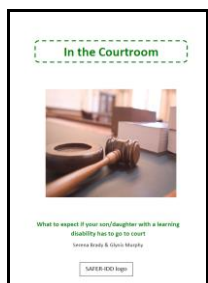
Serena Brady & Glynis Murphy

## Other booklets in the series:



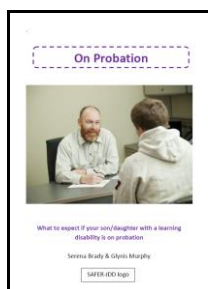
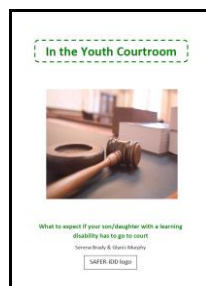
### ***“At the Police Station”***

Information on what happens during a police arrest and at the police station.



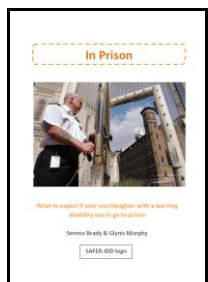
### ***“In the Courtroom” & “In the Youth Courtroom”***

Information on what happens during court / youth court and the possible outcomes.



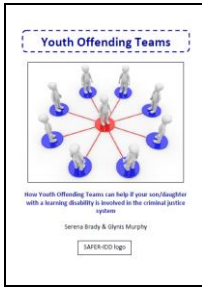
### ***“On Probation”***

Information on what happens during probation.



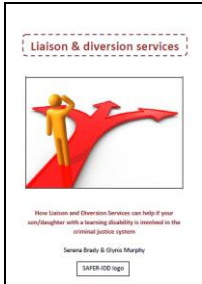
### ***“In Prison”***

Information on what happens in an adult prison / young adult youth offender institution.



## **“Youth Offending Teams”**

Information on what Youth Offending Teams are and what they do.



## **“Liaison & Diversion Services”**

Information on what Liaison & Diversion Services are and what they do

## **Acknowledgements**

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## What is this booklet about?

This booklet is for anyone who has a son/daughter with a **learning** or **developmental disability** or **autism** (aged **under 18**) who has been **convicted** of a **crime** and given a **custodial sentence** or is **remanded in custody**. It will give you information about the types of **youth custody**, what happens in custody, how you can keep in touch with your son/daughter, what will happen when they are released, and how you can help them.

This booklet does not give you information on **adult prison** (for anyone **over 18**), what happens during a **police arrest**, in **court**, or detailed information about **probation**. Other booklets in the series (see page 1) provide more information about these aspects of the **criminal justice system**. There are also booklets on **Liaison & Diversion Services** and **Youth Offending Teams**.

## How to use this booklet

You can use the sections in this booklet when you need to, it might be helpful to read specific sections when they are most relevant. There is a list of useful terms and an index at the back which will help you to find information. Any words that are **red** are explained in the 'useful terms' and are also in the index.

## Prisoners on remand

If your son/daughter has not been convicted and is remanded in youth custody awaiting their trial, there will be differences in how they are treated in custody. This is because they are considered to be innocent unless they are convicted, so they are allowed more privileges and have fewer restrictions than those who have already been convicted. Throughout this booklet, any writing that is blue and/or in a separate box gives information about differences for young people who are on remand waiting for their trial. If your son/daughter has been remanded after being convicted while they wait to be sentenced, they will be treated in the same way as sentenced prisoners.

## Different types of youth custody

There are three different types of youth custody (see page 15) however throughout this booklet, **the word youth custody is used to refer to any of the three types of youth custody** (unless stated otherwise).

## People you might meet

### Chaplain

Someone who works in or comes into youth custody and helps young people to practice their religion. They will be from lots of different religions. They can also give young people help and advice even if they are not from the same religion or do not practice religion at all.

### Disability liaison officer

A disability liaison officer works in youth custody and provides help to young people with disabilities. This could be by listening to them, by making sure all their needs are met, helping them take part in activities, talking to staff etc. See page 45

### Education officer

This is someone who works in youth custody and can give young people information about what education and training they will be able to do while they are in custody.

### Healthcare staff

Every youth custody establishment has healthcare staff (e.g. nurses or doctors) who can look after the healthcare needs of young people. They also interview every young person when they arrive in youth custody – see page 17.



## **Independent district judge**

An independent district judge runs adjudications (hearings) when a young person in a youth offender institution has broken the rules, and decides what consequences to give them.

## **Liaison & diversion staff**

Liaison and diversion services are there to help people who are involved in the criminal justice system and who might have a learning or developmental disability or mental health condition. Staff from the service might be involved with your son/daughter to do assessments. More information on liaison and diversion services is given on page 48.

## **Offender manager**

An offender manager (also called probation officer) is someone who works with young people in youth custody to develop their sentence plan. They also supervise young people when they are on licence in the community. The offender manager will be part of the youth offending team.

## **Offender supervisor**

Offender supervisors work in youth custody and work with young people on their sentence/training plan. This might be the same person as the young person's personal officer.

## **Personal officer**

Each young person is assigned to a specific member of staff called a personal officer / keyworker / link worker. They can help the young people who are assigned to them and will make reports about their progress while they are in youth custody.

**Custody officer**

Someone who works in youth custody to manage young people who have been placed in custody.

**Governor**

The person who is in charge of the whole youth custody establishment. May be called a director if it is a privately run youth custody setting, or a manager.

## Why youth custody?

There are four reasons your son/daughter may have been placed in youth custody:

1. They have been **convicted** of a crime and a **Judge** or **Magistrates/District Judge** decided that they should go to youth custody as a **consequence** of committing the crime
2. They have been **convicted** of a crime but a Judge or Magistrates **haven't sentenced them yet**, and they have been **remanded in youth custody** to await sentencing
3. They have been **accused** of committing a crime, have pleaded not guilty, and are **waiting to have their trial**, but the Judge or Magistrates decided that they needed to be **remanded in youth custody** while they wait
4. They have been taken to a youth custody setting as a **place of safety** under the **Mental Health Act** (see Court booklet for more information). If your son/daughter is in youth custody for this reason, they should be kept there no longer than 72 hours and should be assessed by a doctor/psychiatrist as soon as possible.

## How long they will be in youth custody

The length of time your son/daughter will be in youth custody for depends on why they are there.

If they have been **remanded to youth custody** to wait for their trial or to be sentenced for a crime, there is no set amount of time that they will be in custody for. This is because trials and sentencing can take a long time and involve many **hearings**. Your son/daughter **might** not be remanded in youth custody in between every hearing of a trial, but this will depend on whether the Judge or Magistrates think that they need to be remanded in custody. The Judge / Magistrates might think that your son/daughter needs to be remanded in youth custody for their own safety, for the safety of others, or to make sure that they don't commit more crimes and that they attend court. However it would be unusual to wait more than 12 months.

If your son/daughter has been **convicted of a crime and sentenced to youth custody**, the amount of time they are there will depend on their sentence. They will have been given one of five types of sentence. These are:

1

**Detention and Training Order:** This means that your son/daughter was sentenced to youth custody for a certain amount of time. A detention and training order can only be for 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 18 or 24 months, and

your son/daughter will spend half of their sentence in a youth custody setting (see page 15) and half under supervision of the youth offending team in the community.

2

**Determinate (under section 91 of the Powers of Criminal Evidence Act, 2000):** If your son/daughter has been given a determinate sentence the court will say exactly how long the sentence is for. They will then usually go to a youth custody setting for half of the sentence and might be released earlier than this (see page 51).

3

**Indeterminate (under section 226 of the Criminal Justice Act, 2003):** If your son/daughter is given an indeterminate sentence the court will say the minimum amount of time that they have to stay in youth custody (called a **tariff**) before they can be considered for release. This is because they think the offender is a risk to the public. They may not be released after the end of their tariff if they are still a risk to the public.

4

**Extended (under section 228 of the Criminal Justice Act, 2003):** Your son/daughter will have been given an

extended sentence if they committed a serious violent or sexual crime. The court will have said how long their sentence is and they will have to spend at least two thirds of this time in youth custody before they can be considered for release. They might have to spend the whole time in custody if they are still a risk to the public.

**Detention during her majesty's pleasure (under section 90 of the Powers of Criminal Evidence Act, 2000) or discretionary life sentence (under section**

**5** **226 of the Criminal Justice Act, 2003):** If your son/daughter committed murder they will have been sentenced to detention during her majesty's pleasure, which is similar to a life sentence for adults or a discretionary life sentence (which might be the same as a life sentence for adults). They will have to spend a **minimum** amount of time in youth custody (the tariff) before they can be considered for release. The tariff will usually be a minimum of 12 years. They might not be released after their tariff is finished if they are still a risk to the public.

## **Hospital orders**

If your son/daughter was given a **hospital order** under section 37 the Mental Health Act when sentenced, they will

not be sent to youth custody, but will instead be sent to a hospital. This is because two doctors/psychiatrists said that your son/daughter needs treatment for a mental health condition and should be in a hospital rather than a youth custody setting. This might be combined with a **restriction order** (section 41) which restricts when your son/daughter can be released from hospital. After they are released, they will **not** have to go to youth custody. See the Youth Court booklet for more details.

If your son/daughter is already in youth custody (either on remand or because they were given one of the sentences above), but two doctors/psychiatrists think that they need treatment at hospital for a serious mental health condition, they can be transferred to hospital under **section 47** of the Mental Health Act. They will then be kept in hospital for treatment and they cannot refuse to have treatment for mental health needs. They can be kept in hospital for six months to begin with, but this can be renewed. When they no longer need to be in hospital, they will be sent back to a youth custody setting as long as their sentence/remand is not finished. If their sentence/remand is finished, they will be released in the same way as if they had been in youth custody (e.g. they might be put **on licence**, sentenced if they were on remand, or released – see page 51).

## Types of youth custody

Youth offenders are placed in one of three different types of youth custody setting if they are given a custodial sentence. The type of setting they are placed in will depend on a range of things, including their age and needs.

### Youth offender institutes

#### Youth offender institutes (YOI)

are run in a very similar way to adult prisons, and may be located on the same site as an adult prison (although prisoners from the adult prison and YOI won't mix). They are usually run by the prison service, but might be run by a private company.



YOIs are for male or female prisoners aged between 15 and 21, although prisoners who are under 18 will be in a separate part of the YOI. They can be large and hold as many as 400 youth offenders.

### Secure training centres

**Secure training centres** are run by private companies and hold male or female youth offenders who are aged between



12 and 17 years. They are smaller than most YOIs and hold between 50 and 80 young people. They often have a higher ratio of staff to young people than YOIs.

### Secure children's homes



**Secure children's homes** are run by local authorities and have the highest staff to young person ratio of any type of youth custody setting for youth offenders. They are also the smallest setting that a youth offender might be placed in, holding between 8 and 40 young people aged 10-14.

### Youth custody setting location

Where your son/daughter will be placed if they are under 18 will depend on their age and needs. There are more YOIs than other types of setting for youth offenders, but there are still less YOIs or other types of youth custody setting than adult prisons. This is because there are less youth offenders than adult offenders, and less youth offenders are given custodial sentences than adult offenders. Because of this, your son/daughter **might not be placed near to their home.** There are also very few youth custody settings for female young people, so your daughter is much less likely to be placed close to their home if they have been given a custodial sentence.



## Arriving in youth custody

When your son/daughter is sentenced to youth custody, they will be taken there straight from court. They will not be allowed to see you before they are taken to the youth custody setting, however they will be able to phone you when they arrive. It is **VERY** important that your son/daughter has your phone number so they can let you know where they have been taken to.

If your son/daughter or their solicitor thinks they might be sentenced to youth custody, it can be useful to give your son/daughter a bag of things to take into their sentencing hearing with them that they can take to youth custody. This could include your address and phone number, some clothes, some money, some photographs, toiletries etc., but it is important to note that they might not be allowed to keep all of this with them in youth custody (see page 25). They will **not** be allowed a phone.

### Reception

When your son/daughter arrives in youth custody, they will be taken to reception.

They will be searched to make sure they do not have anything they are not allowed. The reception



staff will make a note of the belongings they have with them. Many of their belongings will be taken and placed in secure storage while they are in youth custody because there are many things that young people are not allowed to keep with them in custody. They will be given their belongings back when they leave the youth custody setting. There are some things they may be allowed to keep with them – see page 25.

They may have their photograph and fingerprints taken and will be given a **prison number**.



They will be allowed to telephone a relative to let them know where they are, and they will be given information about how to arrange for people to come and visit them. They will be able to have someone visit them within the first 2 days of being in youth custody (see page 40 for more information about visiting).

## Healthcare

A doctor or nurse from the healthcare team will speak to your son/daughter to make sure they know if your son/daughter has any medical or mental health conditions or disabilities. It is **VERY** important that your son/daughter tells



staff about any medical / mental health conditions they have, and that they have a learning disability or autism. They will then be able to get any help that they need while in youth custody (see page 45). They can also ask to see a **disability liaison officer** who can help young people who have a disability.

Your son/daughter will **not** be allowed to keep any medication that they have brought with them, but healthcare staff will make sure they get prescribed any medication they need and they **may** be allowed to keep this new medication with them in their cell. If they are not allowed to keep it with them, staff will keep it and make sure your son/daughter can have access to it when they need to take their medication. It is **very** important that your son/daughter tells staff if they are on medication.



## Induction

Your son/daughter will be told everything they need to know about being in youth custody – this is called **induction**. This might happen as soon as they are taken to custody, or it might be in the first few days after they arrive.

Your son/daughter should also receive written information about the rules and what happens in youth custody (called

an **induction pack**). They may be able to have this information in an easier format to understand or on a CD if they need it. If they need help to read or understand the induction pack they should tell staff and ask custody officers or other young people to help them. The induction pack might also have some toiletries, sweets, and magazines in, but your son/daughter will have to pay for this once they start earning money in youth custody so they can refuse these items if they don't want to pay for them.

## The first night

Your son/daughter may spend their first night in youth custody in a normal **cell**, on the **healthcare wing** (if they need to have medical assessments done) or in an **induction wing**. Induction wings allow young people who have just arrived in custody to learn about the rules and what happens in youth custody before being placed in the main residential area. They also allow staff to assess young people, for example, in relation to their reading and writing skills.

Your son/daughter will also be able to have a bath or shower on their first night.

Lots of people say they feel very scared at first, but less scared after the first few days. It helps if they have some coping strategies, like knowing when you will visit, how to

keep calm etc.

## Sentence planning

When they first arrive in youth custody, your son/daughter will be assigned a **personal officer** (who might be called a **keyworker** or **link worker**). This is the person who will work with your son/daughter in custody to help them and may also work with them on their **sentence plan** (see below). If your son/daughter has been given a detention and training order, their sentence plan will be called a **training plan**.

Personal  
officer

### Sentence planning

While your son/daughter is in youth custody they will work with their personal officer, an **offender supervisor** (who may be the same person as their personal officer) and a worker from the youth offending team to develop a sentence/training plan. This plan will be recorded on a computer system called **AssetPlus**.

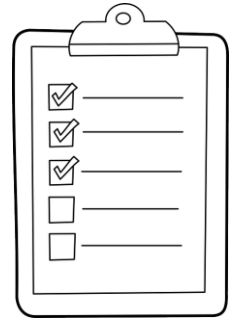
Offender  
supervisor

Offender  
manager

The sentence/training plan involves a range of assessments including risk assessments. These will look at how much of a risk to the public your son/daughter would be if they were released from youth custody and how to reduce this risk. The plan will also look at the factors that were linked to them committing the crime, and what could be done during their

sentence (both while in custody and after they have been released) to tackle these, as well as any training or education that they could do.

After all assessments have been done, a detailed plan will be developed which includes a range of things your son/daughter can do, and support they can receive, to reduce the likelihood of them reoffending when they are released from custody. The plan should be realistic with clear goals, a sequence of actions and time frame for each action.



The plan might include a range of actions such as:

- Attending **offender management programmes**
- Attending programmes to tackle drug/alcohol problems
- Doing training, taking part in educational classes and getting qualifications
- Supporting family and close relationships both in custody and on release

It is important to note that not many of the offender management programmes on offer within the prison service have been adapted to support people with learning disabilities. This may mean that there are not many



programmes your son/daughter could attend, but **programmes should not be included in their sentence/training plan if your son/daughter would be unable to attend them**. Youth custody/youth offending team staff can offer one to one support instead of a programme.

Your son/daughter's sentence/training plan should be reviewed regularly while they are serving their sentence. It is **very** important that your son/daughter takes part in developing their sentence/training plan and follows it, as this will demonstrate that they are motivated to overcome factors which may have led to them offending. This is particularly important if your son/daughter is on an indeterminate sentence where a **parole board** will decide whether they are safe to be released from custody after they have served their tariff (see page 51).

## What happens in youth custody

### The cell/bedroom

You son/daughter will be assigned to a cell/bedroom in youth custody. This will be where they sleep. They may be locked in their cell/bedroom for parts of the day but should be allowed to be out of their cell/bedroom for a minimum of 10 hours a day.



They **may** have to share their cell/bedroom with another young person. The staff will choose someone for your son/daughter to share with who they think they might get along with. If your son/daughter wants to move cell/bedroom because they feel unsafe or unhappy they should talk to a custody officer or their personal officer who can help.

The cell/bedroom will have a bed for your son/daughter (with clean bedding provided) and a toilet. There will also be a desk and somewhere to store personal items. There is unlikely to be a bath or shower, but your son / daughter should be able to have a bath or shower every day. There

should also be access to drinking water in their cell/bedroom and somewhere to make hot drinks.

## Personal property

Young people are allowed to keep certain personal items in their cell/bedroom, but there may be limits on how much personal property they are allowed (e.g. due to space, or rules in the youth custody setting they are in). They should also be able to personalise their cell/bedroom, for example by putting up posters or photographs.

The things that your son/daughter is allowed to keep will depend on the specific youth custody setting they are in. They should receive information about this in their induction pack. Some items that they may be allowed to keep are listed below and most of these items can be bought through the shop in youth custody (called the **canteen**).

- Newspapers, books / audio books, or magazines (either their own or borrowed from the youth custody library)
- A computer
- A stereo
- Games
- Materials for hobbies, e.g. art, a musical instrument
- A watch
- An electric shaver
- Batteries
- Things to help with a disability
- Toiletries
- Plain ring / necklace or locket
- Religious books / incense
- Legal papers
- Photographs
- An address book
- Stamps and envelopes
- Medication

There are some items that your son/daughter will **not** be allowed to keep. These include the items below and may include other items depending on the youth custody setting:

- A mobile phone
- A weapon, e.g. a knife
- Alcohol
- Illegal drugs
- Cigarettes/tobacco (as your son/daughter will **not** be

allowed to smoke)

You will **not** be allowed to give things to your son/daughter during a visit and you are also not usually allowed to send things into the youth custody setting for them. You can, however, send them some money (which will go into their **private cash** – see below) to help them buy things that they need while they're in youth custody. To do this, you will need to send the money, cheque, or postal order in an envelope with your son/daughter's name and prison number on. You should ask staff at the youth custody setting who you should make the cheque/postal order out to.

## Eating and drinking

Food and drink will be provided for your son/daughter. They will have a choice of food from a menu with pictures each day. If they need to follow a special diet for health or religious reasons then the youth custody setting will allow this. They may also be able to buy snacks from the canteen – see below.

## Exercise

Your son/daughter should be allowed to spend time outside in the fresh air for at least 1 hour



per day. There will also be other ways for your son/daughter to exercise, such as using a gym or doing sports.

## Healthcare



In youth custody your son/daughter should receive the **same level of healthcare that they would receive if they were living in the community.**

The youth custody setting will have doctors who can see young people who are unwell or have healthcare needs. Some settings might have a healthcare wing where young people who are unwell can stay to get better.

Healthcare  
staff

If your son/daughter has a health problem that can't be assessed or treated in the youth custody setting they're in one of three things might happen to make sure they get the help they need:

- They might **be transferred to a youth custody setting that can support them**
- A **specialist healthcare worker might come into the youth custody setting** to assess or treat them
- They might be **taken to a hospital** for treatment.

## Religion

When they arrive in the youth custody setting, your son/daughter will be asked to say what their religion is. This is so that staff can support them to continue practicing it while in custody.

Every youth custody setting will have **chaplains** from a number of different religions who can help young people to practice their religion. If they don't have a chaplain from your son/daughter's religion they should allow someone from your son/daughter's religion to visit them in custody. Your son/daughter can see a chaplain even if they don't have a religion, as chaplains can also offer general advice to young people.

Chaplain

The youth custody setting will accommodate any dietary requirements due to a young person's religion (e.g. not eating meat) and will allow 1 hour per week for faith related activities (e.g. praying in the chapel). They will also offer support for religious festivals (e.g. providing certain types of food, modifying activities etc.). Your son/daughter will be allowed to keep religious items in their cell/bedroom such as religious texts or incense.

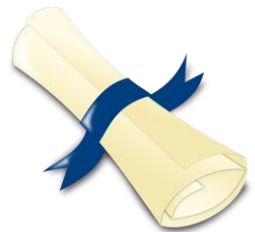


## Education

While your son/daughter is in custody, they should spend most of their time in education or doing things to develop their knowledge and skills, and they may get paid for every class they attend. The amount of education they receive will depend on their age and what type of youth custody setting they are in;

- In **YOIs**, your son/daughter should receive **25 hours** per week of education or other activities to develop their knowledge/skills
- In **secure training centres**, your son/daughter should receive **25 hours** per week of education with 1 hour per day focusing on avoiding crime
- In **secure children's homes**, your son/daughter should receive **30 hours** per week of education

These activities should enable them to get qualifications (such as GCSEs), help them learn skills that will be useful to them when they leave custody (e.g. skills needed for jobs), and help them develop skills which will make them less likely to commit more crimes (e.g. social skills etc.).





## Work & training

Whilst they are in custody, your son/daughter may also be able to work and earn money. Whether they will be able to do this will depend on their age and needs, and the type of youth custody setting they are in. The type of work they do will depend on what they are able to do and staff will assess this soon after they arrive. They might do things like:

- Gardening
- Farming
- Making things that the youth custody setting needs or that they will sell in the community
- Working around the custody setting, e.g. in the laundry room or kitchen, cleaning etc.



Your son/daughter will be paid for this work, and any money they are paid gets put in their private cash which they can spend while in custody (see below).

They may receive training to do their job in youth custody, and can also access training for other things that they want to do once they leave custody. They should talk to the **education officer** about what training or qualifications they might be able to do while they're in custody.

Education  
officer

## Money

The youth custody setting will keep any money for young people in their private cash. This includes money that they had with them when they arrived, money sent by relatives (see page 25), and money earned from working/attending classes in youth custody. Private cash can be spent in different ways including:

- At the **canteen** (see below)
- Renting a **TV** for their cell/bedroom (depending on their behaviour – see page 38)
- Paying for **telephone calls**



How much of their private cash a young person is allowed to spend each week depends on their behaviour.

## The canteen

The canteen is the shop where young people can buy items with their private cash while in youth custody. Items they can buy include:

- Batteries
- Sweets
- Toiletries



The canteen can also order specific items for young people as long as they are allowed to have these items in custody. For example, young people might be able to order specific toiletries, books, games, electronic items etc.

## Youth custody rules



While your son/daughter is in youth custody, they will have to follow some rules. These might vary between youth custody settings but in every setting **young people must not:**

- ✗ **Offend, threaten or hurt someone** (either another young person or a member of staff)
- ✗ **Stop staff** from **doing their jobs**
- ✗ **Escape** from the youth custody setting
- ✗ Take **drugs** or drink **alcohol**
- ✗ **Damage** the youth custody setting, e.g. by breaking things or starting a fire
- ✗ **Have items that are not allowed** (see page 25), or have **too much of something that is allowed**
- ✗ **Be in parts of the youth custody setting that young people are not allowed in**
- ✗ **Disobey** staff
- ✗ **Break** any of these rules when released from the youth custody setting temporarily (see page 51).

If your son/daughter breaks any of these rules it is called an “**offence**” (although it is **not** the same as a **criminal offence** unless the thing that your son/daughter did is against the

law, such as hurting someone).

If your son/daughter **breaks the rules in a YOI**, there will be a hearing called an **adjudication** where the **prison governor** or an **independent district judge** will decide what punishment to give

Independent  
district judge

Prison  
governor

for the offence. The hearing is a bit like a criminal trial and your son/daughter must be at the hearing to say whether they are guilty or not guilty and why. They should ask their personal officer, other young people, or staff for help to prepare for the hearing. The punishments that can be given for an offence include:

- A **caution**
- **Losing privileges** (see page 38) for up to 21 days
- **Not being allowed to spend any of their private cash** for up to 42 days
- **Not being allowed to work** with other young people for up to 21 days
- **Being taken off the wing or living unit** for up to 21 days
- **Loss of activities** for 21 days
- **2 hours more work every day** for up to 21 days
- For serious offences, an independent district judge can also decide to make the young person **stay in youth custody for up to an extra 42 days**. Only an

independent district judge can do this (i.e. the governor cannot).

If your son/daughter **breaks the rules in a secure training centre or secure children's home** there might not be an adjudication, but your son/daughter will still be given consequences or punishments (these will vary depending on the setting).

It is **very** important that your son/daughter understands the rules they have to follow and what might happen if they don't follow them (regardless of the type of youth custody setting they are placed in) – they should be given this information in writing (and in other formats/languages if they need this) when they arrive in youth custody, and should be given help to understand it from staff or other young people.

## Behaviour management

Every youth custody setting must have a scheme that provides rewards to young people for behaving well – this might be called the **incentives and earned privileges scheme** or it may be called something



different. The name of the scheme and the specific details of each scheme will vary by setting.

There are usually three or four levels (e.g. basic, standard, enhanced, and enhanced plus), and young people will start on the bottom or middle level. If they show good behaviour (such as following the rules, making progress on their sentence/training plan, being helpful and kind to others etc.) they can move up to higher levels. Each level offers more rewards, such as additional visits/longer visits, new activities (such as playing on games consoles or having a TV in their room), or more free time (sometimes called **association**).

If a young person does not behave well, they can receive warnings and could be moved to a lower level on the scheme which would mean they lose some of these extra privileges. If they break the rules, they might also have additional consequences or punishments (see page 35). It is important

to note, however, that most of the things listed in the “what happens in youth custody” section (page 25) (with the exception of some items they can keep, such as games or a computer) is a young person’s **right** and they will not have to earn these things through the behaviour scheme.

It is **very** important that your son/daughter understands the rules that they have to follow and the extra things they need to do to move up the levels of the behaviour scheme. They should be given this information in writing (and in other formats, such as a CD if they need it) when they first arrive at the youth custody setting, and they can ask custody officers or other young people to help them understand this information.



## Keeping in touch

There are a number of ways that you can keep in touch with your son/daughter while they are in youth custody. These include:

- Telephone calls
- Letters
- Emails
- Visits

### Telephone calls

Young people are allowed to make telephone calls while they are in youth custody. Shortly after arriving in custody they will be given a **PIN**, which they will have to type into the phone before they can make a call. They might have to write down a list of all the people they want to be able to telephone, so it is **VERY** important that your son/daughter has your phone number.

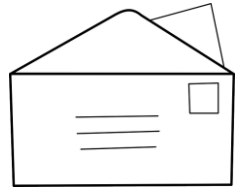


Phone calls are **not** free, and your son/daughter will have to top up their credit from their private cash. Telephone calls also might **not** be private (unless the call is to their **legal advisor**), as staff are able to listen in to a phone call if they think they need to for any reason.

Friends and relatives usually **cannot** make phone calls to a young person.

## Letters

Young people are able to send and receive letters while they are in custody. They will be able to send two free letters per week. If they want to send more than this, they will have to pay the postage for this. They can receive as many letters as they want to each week.



**Young people on remand can send more letters for free each week.**

If you would like to send a letter to your son/daughter you will need to write their name and prison number on the envelope.

Letters will **not** be private (unless it is to / from your son/daughter's legal advisor), as staff are allowed to read letters if they think they need to.

## Emails

Youth custody settings might allow you to email your son/daughter using the **email a prisoner scheme**. Emails can be quicker than



letters, and your son/daughter will receive them in the same way they would receive a letter. Emails cost 35p to send, and your son/daughter **may** be able to reply, but might have to reply using a letter. Emails will also **not** be private.

## Visits

You can visit your son/daughter while they are in custody. The number of visits your son/daughter can have might vary by youth custody setting and how they behave (see page 38), but as a minimum they should be allowed:

- **One 1.5 hour visit every week**

- **There is no limit on the number of visits a young person on remand can receive**

If you do not live near your son/daughter's youth custody setting, you may be able to visit less often but for a longer period time (this is called **accumulated visits**). You may also be able to get help with the costs of travelling to the setting for visits if you have a low income through the **assisted visits scheme**. You should ask staff at the youth custody setting about whether these schemes are available and how to access them.

Your son/daughter may have to complete a **visiting order** for

every visit which is a form where they must write a list of who will visit. They can ask custody officers or other young people for help with this. They will then send this to you and you should bring it with you when you visit. If your son/daughter has to fill in a visiting order, everyone who wants to visit **must** be written on the visiting order. Up to three people can visit at a time and you will need to get permission if you would like more people to visit. People under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

You may need to phone the youth custody setting to book your visit. Some youth custody settings might allow you to book a visit online.



When you arrive at the youth custody setting, all of the visitors will have to show ID (e.g. a driver's licence, passport, birth certificate etc.)



and will be searched to make sure they don't have anything that is not allowed. All personal belongings will have to be left in a locker outside of the visiting room, and you may need a trolley coin or £1 coin for this.

In the visiting room there will be somewhere to buy drinks or snacks for you and your son/daughter. There might also be

somewhere for children to play.

There will be lots of other people in the visiting room and some custody officers, so your visit will **not** be private.

## Help for young people with disabilities

There are some sources of support in youth custody for young people who have disabilities. The youth custody setting must also comply with your son/daughter's **education, health, and care plan** or **statement of educational needs** if they have these.

### Disability liaison officer

The main way that your son/daughter can get help while in youth custody is by speaking to the disability liaison officer, whose job it is to help young people who have disabilities. The disability liaison officer may be able to help in a number of ways:

Disability  
liaison  
officer

- **Listening** to your son/daughter and finding out what their needs are
- Helping to make sure these **needs are met**
- Talking to the governor about **anything that needs to be done in the youth custody setting** to better support the needs of young people with disabilities
- Giving out **information** to other young people and staff
- Organising **activities** for young people with disabilities
- **Supporting** young people with disabilities to take part in activities in the youth custody setting

There may be a form to fill out for your son/daughter to see the disability liaison officer, and custody officers or other young people will be able to help them with this.

## **Adaptations to help people with disabilities**

The law says that all services must make **reasonable adjustments** to support people with disabilities. This includes youth custody settings and means that the setting should do everything they can to help young people who have disabilities to take part in life at the youth custody setting. This might mean doing a range of things such as adapting information to make it easier to read, providing information in different formats (e.g. on a CD), adapting the building where possible to make it easier to get around (e.g. using ramps, hand rails etc.), or adapting education classes and offender management programmes to make sure that young people who have disabilities can still take part.

Some youth custody settings may not have the facilities to properly support young people with disabilities; therefore your son/daughter might be transferred to a different setting that is able to meet their needs.

If your son/daughter does not think that the youth custody settings are doing everything they can to help them take part

in life while in custody they should seek advice from their legal advisor.

## Other staff

There may also be other staff at the youth custody setting who can help young people more generally with a range of things. These include:

- Chaplains
- Psychologists
- The young person's personal officer



## Liaison & diversion services

Liaison &  
Diversion  
staff

Another way that your son/daughter might be able to get help in youth custody if they are on remand is through Liaison and diversion services. Liaison and diversion services are NHS services which support the identification, assessment, and referral of people of all ages who have learning disabilities, autism or a mental health condition in the criminal justice system. They can only help if your son/daughter is in youth custody on remand, and will not be able to help if they have been sentenced to youth custody. They aim to:

- **Divert** people out of the criminal justice system where possible
- **Reduce** the **time** people with learning disabilities / autism / mental health conditions spend in **custody** (at a police station or in prison/youth custody)
- **Reduce** the amount of **time** spent in court and delays in the **court** process due to lack of information or assessments
- **Reduce repeat arrests** by improving access to treatment in the community
- **Improve access to treatment** and support generally
- **Improve health outcomes**

## How a referral to the service is made

Once it has been identified that a person might have a learning disability or mental health condition, staff can make a referral to the liaison and diversion service, if there is one in their area. Some liaison and diversion services may also accept referrals from the prisoner themselves, or from their friends, family or carers.

## What happens after a referral is made

After receiving a referral, the service will arrange to assess the person to identify whether they have a learning disability or autism or a mental health condition and refer them to treatment and support if necessary. They are able to work with community health and social care services to make sure that the person is receiving good support in the community as well as whilst they are going through the criminal justice system.

They will also provide information to staff in the criminal justice system about the person's learning disability / autism / mental health condition so that they can take this information into account when making decisions.

## **Limitations of liaison and diversion services**

Although liaison and diversion services do aim to help people with learning disabilities or autism, it is important to note that they may be relatively new services in some areas and they might not have expertise at every service in supporting people with learning disabilities or autism. They are also not currently available in all areas as NHS England are undergoing a trial of Liaison & Diversion Services across 10 sites in England. There are plans to make Liaison and Diversion Services available in every area by 2016/2017.

## **How to contact your local Liaison & Diversion service**

As the Liaison and Diversion scheme is still in a trial phase, there is no central list of all Liaison and Diversion services. If you'd like to contact your local Liaison and Diversion service you should be able to get their details from a police station, your local Magistrate's/Crown Court, or your son/daughter's youth custody setting. Alternatively, you may be able to find their details by searching for them online.

To find out more information about Liaison and Diversion services visit:

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/health-just/liaison-and-diversion/>

## Release from youth custody

Your son/daughter might be released from youth custody either temporarily or at the end of their sentence.

When they are released and what types of temporary or early release they are eligible for can be very complicated and will depend on the crime they committed, the type and length of sentence they were given, and the risk they pose to the public. Your son/daughter should be given detailed information about when they are eligible to be released, and can speak to their personal officer if they are unsure.

### Release on temporary licence

Your son/daughter may be able to leave youth custody temporarily for a number of reasons (this is called **release on temporary licence** in YOIs or **mobility** in secure children's homes or secure training centres). They might have a member of staff with them during their release. They can only apply for temporary release after they have served a **quarter of their total sentence**, and they **cannot apply more than 2 years before their release date** (except for the special purposes licence – see below). There are four types of temporary release that may be granted:

- **Special purposes licence**: this allows your

son/daughter to leave youth custody (for up to 4 nights) to visit a relative who is very ill, attend a funeral/marriage/religious service, get medical treatment, or go to court. This can be applied for **at any time** during your son/daughter's sentence.

- **Resettlement day release:** this allows your son/daughter to leave youth custody for a day to do community service projects, keep in touch with family, or attend training or education courses.
- **Resettlement overnight release:** this is the same as resettlement day release but allows your son/daughter to be away from youth custody overnight so that they can spend time where they will live after the end of their sentence.
- **Childcare resettlement:** this allows your son/daughter to leave youth custody temporarily (up to 3 nights) to care for a child (only if they will be the child's sole caregiver when they are released from custody). This can be taken every 2 months.

**Young people on remand or those who have been convicted but not yet sentenced cannot get release on temporary licence/mobility.**

## **At the end of their sentence**

When your son/daughter is released from youth custody will

depend on how long their sentence was for and the type of sentence.

- **Detention and training order / determinate sentences:** your son/daughter will usually be released half way through their sentence
- **Extended sentences:** your son/daughter will be eligible to apply to be released (called **parole**) after they have served two thirds of their sentence.
- **Indeterminate and life sentences:** your son/daughter will be eligible to apply to be released from youth custody after they have served the tariff set by the court.

Young people on remand will be released after they have been back to court if they are found not guilty or if they are found guilty but not sentenced to custody.

## Home detention curfew

If your son/daughter's determinate sentence is between 3 months and 2 years, they may be eligible to be released on **home detention curfew (HDC)** up to 135 days before their release date.

HDC means that your son/daughter will be able to leave the youth custody setting but will have to wear an electronic

monitor (**tag**) on their ankle until their original release date. They will have to follow certain rules, such as being home at certain times, and the tag will monitor this. If they break the rules they will be sent back to youth custody. **It is a crime to take the tag off.**

Your son/daughter won't be able to be released on HDC if they committed a violent or sexual crime, and they must have somewhere to live in order to be put on HDC.

### **What happens when your son/daughter is released**

When your son/daughter is released from youth custody (not on temporary licence) they will be given their belongings and own clothes back. If their clothes don't fit, the youth custody setting can give them some to wear for the journey home.

Your son/daughter **may** be given a **travel warrant** which will let them use the bus, train, or coach to get home. They may also be given a **discharge grant** to cover their expenses (e.g. food, travel etc.) for their first week. Your son/daughter should talk to their personal officer before their release to find out whether they are eligible for these grants.

Your son/daughter should try to make sure they have somewhere to live **before they are released**. The youth custody setting can help them to do this, but they should try to begin making arrangements for this well in advance of their release date as it can take a while to arrange. If they will be homeless when they are released from custody, the Local Authority has a duty to help them find somewhere to live – your son/daughter can make an application to the Local Authority or someone can make an application on their behalf.

Your son/daughter should also get advice and support relating to money and employment or education while they are in custody in preparation for their release. Staff should be able to help them with this.

## **Being on licence**

When your son/daughter leaves custody, they will usually be on licence for a certain amount of time. This means that they will have to abide by certain rules and meet with their **offender manager** (probation officer) from the youth offending team regularly to help stop them reoffending.



There is more information on being on licence in the probation booklet (see page 1).

**Prisoners who were on remand will not be placed on licence if they are released because they were found not guilty.**

## Transferring to an adult prison

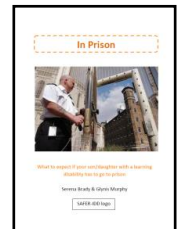


If your son/daughter turns 18 while they are in custody they will usually be transferred to a prison for people who are over 18. They might be transferred to a new setting, or to a different part of the YOI that they are already in.

Your son/daughter might not be transferred to an adult setting when they turn 18 if they have specific needs or are thought to be vulnerable. They also might not be transferred to an adult prison if they are due to be released soon.

If your son/daughter is transferred they will be given a **security category** which relates to how much risk they would present if they escaped and how likely they are to try to escape. The security category will be used to determine which prison they will be transferred to.

If your son/daughter will turn 18 while they are in custody, you may want to read the Adult Prison booklet in this series which will give you more information about what happens in adult prisons or young adult YOI.



## Youth offending teams

Youth offending teams work with people under the age of 18 who have committed a crime, or are at risk of committing a crime, and their families. They are made up of lots of different types of professionals which could include:

- The police
- Social workers
- Probation officers / offender managers
- Education staff
- Housing officers
- Psychologists
- Family workers

The main aim of the youth offending team is to prevent offending by children and young people. Because of this, they work with young people at a number of stages of involvement with the criminal justice system. Most of their work is in the community, not in prisons.

The youth offending team might help young people **before they commit a crime** if they are identified as being at risk of committing a crime. This could include providing them with a crime prevention programme or offering other forms of support (e.g. addressing problems relating to housing or their family situation) to prevent them committing a crime.

They also help young people **who have committed a crime**, and this may involve providing them with information and support throughout their involvement in the criminal justice system, supervising them if they have been given a community sentence or have been released from custody, and helping to prevent them from reoffending.

### Contacting your local YOT

Every area in England has a youth offending team. You can find your local team by visiting:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/youth-offending-team-contact-details>

## How you can help

If your son/daughter is sent to youth custody it can be a very stressful time. Youth custody can be very confusing and intimidating, but there are ways that you can help your son/daughter and support them while they are in custody.

- **Use this booklet** and the **‘useful resources’ websites** to find out about youth custody so that you’re well prepared and can help your son/daughter to prepare
- **Keep in touch** with your son/daughter while they’re in custody as much as you can (see page 40)
- Make sure that your son/daughter knows how important it is to **tell staff that they have a learning disability or autism**
- **Make a referral to your local liaison and diversion service** if this has not already been done
- **Call your son/daughter’s social worker, community nurse, psychologist, or psychiatrist** if they have one. They will be able to talk to the youth custody setting and the liaison & diversion service.

## Legal advice for yourself

You could also get advice from a solicitor for yourself which might help you to understand what is happening and how

you can best help your son/daughter. You can obtain legal advice by contacting any solicitor (e.g. by searching for one in your area online, going into a solicitor's office, finding one in the phone book). They will charge for their services which means that it **will not be free.**

## Useful terms

**Accumulated visits:** when a family member is allowed to visit their relative in youth custody less often but for a longer amount of time, if they live far away.

**Adjudication:** the type of hearing (meeting) that is held when a young person has broken one of the rules in a YOI. At the adjudication, the governor or independent district judge will decide whether the young person is innocent or guilty and decide what consequences to give them if they are guilty.

**Arrest:** when the police think someone has committed a crime and take them to the police station to find out more.

**AssetPlus:** the computer system used to record a young person's assessments, records, and sentence/training plan.

**Assisted visits:** when a family member gets financial help with the costs of travelling to a youth custody setting to visit their relative.

**Association:** the name given to the time that a young person is allowed out of their cell to socialise with other young people and take part in leisure activities.

**Canteen:** the shop where young people can buy things that they need while in youth custody with their private cash.

**Cell:** the place where a young person in youth custody sleeps. The cell will usually be locked for part of the day. May not be called a cell.

**Chaplains:** people who work in or come into youth custody and help young people to practice their religion. Chaplains are from lots of different religions. Young people can talk to chaplains even if they are not religious, as chaplains also offer general advice to young people.

**Convicted:** when someone pleads guilty or is found guilty of a crime.

**Court:** the place where people say what they know about the crime to help a judge or jury decide if the person committed the crime. If it is decided that the person did commit the crime, the court also decides what consequences the person should have for committing the crime.

**Crime:** any action that breaks the law. This may also be called an offence.

**Criminal justice system:** the system in England that deals with people who are suspected of or have committed a crime.

**Criminal offence:** another word for crime.

**Custodial sentence:** a type of sentence where a young person will have to live in a locked secure setting for a period



of time.

**Custody officer:** someone who works in youth custody and whose job it is to manage young people.

**Detention and training order:** a type of custodial sentence for people who are under 18. See page 10.

**Detention during her majesty's pleasure:** a type of life sentence where the young person will have to stay in custody for at least 12 years and will be 'on licence' for the rest of their life once they are released.

**Determinate sentence:** a type of custodial sentence with a fixed date for when the offender will be released from youth custody.

**Developmental disability:** a type of disability usually present from birth which may also co-occur with a learning disability. Examples include Autism, Fragile X Syndrome, Down syndrome etc. A developmental disability may be identified by psychological or medical tests.

**Disability liaison officer:** someone who works in youth custody and whose job it is to support young people who have disabilities by listening to them, making sure their needs are met, helping them take part in activities etc. See page 45.

**Discharge grant:** a small amount of money given to someone when they leave prison/youth custody to help them pay for their first week's expenses. See page 51.

**Discretionary life sentence:** a type of custodial sentence which may be the same as an adult life sentence for serious crimes.

**District judge:** a person who sits in a Magistrate's court instead of Magistrates and has received full training in the law.

**Education, health, and care plan:** the plan which states how a young person with disabilities needs to be supported based on their education, health, and care needs. These plans replaced statements of educational needs in 2015.

**Education officer:** someone who works in youth custody and can give young people information about what education or training they can do while they're in youth custody.

**Email a prisoner scheme:** the scheme which allows family members and friends to send an email to a young person who is in youth custody. See page 40.

**Extended sentence:** a type of custodial sentence where there will be a fixed date for when the young person can be released, but the period spent 'on licence' in the community will be longer than for a determinate sentence. See page 10.

**Healthcare wing:** the place in a youth custody setting where healthcare staff look after young people who are unwell.

**Hearing:** any meeting at court when the Judge or Magistrates are present.

**Home detention curfew:** when a young person has been released early from youth custody as part of a determinate sentence and they have to wear an electronic monitoring device (tag) on their ankle and follow rules. See page 51.

**Hospital order:** an order that a court can make under the Mental Health Act if someone has been convicted of a crime, as an alternative to sending them to youth custody. The order requires the person to be admitted to a specific hospital for treatment. See page 10.

**Incentives & earned privileges scheme:** the scheme which lets young people earn extra things (e.g. access to TV) if they behave well in youth custody. See page 38.

**Independent district judge:** the person who sits in adjudications for serious offences at a YOI and decides what consequences the young person should have if they are guilty. Independent district judges are the only people who can make a young person stay in a YOI for longer. See page 35.

**Indeterminate sentence:** a type of custodial sentence where the court will say the minimum amount of time a young

person must stay in youth custody for (called their tariff) before they can be considered for release. See page 10.

**Induction:** when another a custody officer tells young people who have just arrived about the youth custody rules and what happens in youth custody.

**Induction pack:** information given to young people when they arrive in youth custody about the rules and what happens in custody. May also include some toiletries, sweets, and magazines.

**Induction wing:** the place in youth custody where young people who have just arrived might spend their first night to help them get used to being in custody.

**Judge:** the person in Crown Court who is responsible for making sure that the trial follows the law.

**Keyworker:** another name for a personal officer.

**Learning disability:** a type of disability which is usually present from birth and results in the person having difficulty with certain things such as communication, independent living, or social skills. A learning disability includes the person having an IQ below 70 and this is usually identified using specific types of psychological tests.

**Legal advisor:** someone who can give advice about the law, for example, a solicitor.

**Liaison & diversion services:** services that support people in the criminal justice system who may have a learning or developmental disability, or mental health condition. See page 48 for more information.

**Link worker:** another name for a personal officer.

**Magistrates:** volunteer members of the public who have received a small amount of training to be able to hear trials in a Magistrates Court.

**Mental health act:** the law that protects people in hospitals who have a learning disability or autism or mental health condition and states how they should be supported. This may include being required to stay in hospital, in a locked ward if necessary. See Mental Health Act booklet for further details.

**Mobility:** another name for release on temporary licence used in secure children's homes and secure training centres.

**Offender management programme:** a type of educational or therapeutic programme which aims to help offenders tackle factors that were related to them committing the crime (e.g. anger, drug/alcohol problems etc.).

**Offender manager:** someone who works in the youth offending team and will work with young people while they are in youth custody (to develop their sentence/training

plan) and when they are released (to supervise them). May also be called a probation officer or youth offending team worker.

**Offender supervisor:** someone who works with young people while they are in youth custody to develop their sentence/training plan and help them follow it. May be the same as the young person's personal officer.

**On licence:** when a young person has been released from custody and must be monitored by an offender manager from the youth offending team and follow certain rules for a period of time.

**Parole:** when a young person is released from youth custody before their official release date because they are no longer a risk to the public.

**Parole board:** the group of people who decide whether a young person who is on an extended or indeterminate sentence is no longer a risk to the public and can be released from youth custody.

**Personal officer:** the custody officer who is responsible for specific young people and who can help them while they are in youth custody. May also be called a keyworker or link worker.

**PIN:** the number that young people have to type into the telephone before they can make a phone call while in youth

custody. See page 40.

**Place of safety:** a place where a person who has a mental health condition might be taken to keep them or other people safe. This might include a hospital, a police station, or a youth custody setting.

**Prison:** the name given to the locked place where an adult who has been given a custodial sentence must live for a period of time.

**Prison governor:** the person who is in charge of the youth custody setting. May be called a director or manager.

**Prison number:** the number given to a young person when they first arrive in youth custody so that they can easily be identified in records kept about them.

**Prison offence:** when a young person has broken the rules in a YOI.

**Private cash:** the money that young people have while they are in youth custody (e.g. from money they had when they arrived, money they were sent by relatives, or money they earned from working/attending classes).

**Probation:** when a person has been charged and found guilty of a crime but the court does not think the person should go to youth custody, or if the person has just been released from youth custody, they are said to be on “probation”. If

they have just been released from youth custody, this might also be called “on licence” or on “parole”. Probation means the person is still serving their sentence for the crime, but is allowed to do this in the community. Probation will have rules that must be followed in order to avoid going back to court or youth custody. See probation booklet for more information.

**Reasonable adjustments:** things that all organisations (including youth custody settings) have to do to help people with disabilities to access the service.

**Release date:** the date on which a young person can be released from youth custody.

**Release on temporary licence:** when a young person is allowed to leave the youth custody setting temporarily – see page 51. May be called mobility if the young person is in a secure training centre or secure children’s home.

**Remanded to custody:** when someone is sent to youth custody while they waiting for their trial, in-between the hearings of their trial, or waiting to be sentenced.

**Restriction order:** an order that can be added to a hospital order to restrict when a young person can be released from hospital.

**Rights:** things that a person **must** be allowed.



**Section 47:** the part of the mental health act which says how and when a young person can be transferred to hospital from youth custody for treatment of a serious mental health condition.

**Secure children's home:** a type of youth custody setting. See page 15.

**Secure training centre:** a type of youth custody setting. See page 15.

**Security category:** a way of categorising adult prisoners based on how much of a risk they are to the public and how likely they are to try to escape.

**Sentence plan:** the plan developed by an offender manager, offender supervisor, personal officer, and young person which has a list of things that the young person or youth custody setting can do to help make sure the young person does not reoffend once they are released from custody. See page 22. May be called a training plan if the young person has been given a detention and training order.

**Statement of educational needs:** this is the plan that states how a young person with disabilities needs to be supported in relation to their education. These plans were replaced in 2015 by education health and care plans.

**Tag:** the electronic monitor that a young person must wear on their ankle if they have been released from youth custody

on home detention curfew.

**Tariff:** the minimum length of time that a young person must be in youth custody for if they are given an indeterminate sentence.

**Training plan:** another name for a sentence plan which will be used in the young person has been given a detention and training order.

**Travel warrant:** a document which allows a person to use the bus, train, or coach, to get back home once they have been released from custody.

**Trial:** the process in court of finding out whether someone is guilty or innocent of a crime they have been accused of. May involve many hearings.

**Visiting order:** a piece of paper where young people must write who will visit them on each visit and send it to the people who will visit them to bring to the youth custody setting with them. See page 40.

**Youth custody:** the name given to secure settings where people aged under 18 will be placed if they are given a custodial sentence.

**Youth offender institute (YOI):** a type of prison where prisoners who are aged 15-21 can be held (but those aged over 18 will be held separately to those who are under 18).

**Youth offending team:** a team of professionals who support young people who are at risk of committing crimes or who have committed a crime. The youth offending team aims to prevent offending/reoffending by children and young people. See page 58.

## Useful resources

This is a list of the places where information for this booklet was found and other resources that you might find useful. Some of these resources are not specifically about children and young people but will still be relevant if your son/daughter is under 18.

### **A joint inspectorate of the treatment of offenders with learning disabilities within the criminal justice system**

Phase one *from arrest to sentence*

<https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/cji/inspections/joint-inspection-of-the-treatment-of-offenders-with-learning-disabilities-within-the-criminal-justice-system-phase-1-from-arrest-to-sentence/#.Vqe8VfIVikp>

Phase two *in custody and the community*

<https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/cji/inspections/learningdisabilitiesphase2/#.Vge8cPlViko>

### **Action for prisoners' and offenders' families**

<http://www.prisonersfamilies.org.uk/>

**The Bradley Report** about how people with mental health problems or learning disabilities are treated in the criminal justice system.

<https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/pdf/Bradleyreport.pdf>

### **Citizens Advice information pages**

General information on legal system:

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/law-and-rights/legal-system/>

Prisons

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/law-and-rights/legal-system/prisoners/prisoners/>

### **Department of Health ‘Positive Practice Positive Outcomes’ Report**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/positive-practice-positive-outcomes-a-handbook-for-professionals-in-the-criminal-justice-system-working-with-offenders-with-a-learning-disability>

### **Gov.uk information pages**

General information on legal system:

<https://www.gov.uk/browse/justice>

Prison pages

<https://www.gov.uk/life-in-prison/arriving-at-prison>

Visiting someone in prison/youth custody

<https://www.gov.uk/prison-visits>

Email a prisoner scheme

<http://www.emailaprisoner.com/>

**Her Majesty's inspectorate of prisons expectations for children and young people report**

<http://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprison/about-our-inspections/inspection-criteria/>

**Howard league for penal reform**

<http://www.howardleague.org/>

**KeyRing criminal justice system resources:**

<https://www.keyring.org/cjs>

**Liaison & Diversion Services**

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/health-just/liaison-and-diversion/>

**MENCAP resources on the criminal justice system**

<https://www.mencap.org.uk/raising-your-game/resources>

**Mental Health Act Code of Practice (see, in particular, chapter 22)**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/code-of-practice-mental-health-act-1983>

**National Autistic Society: Criminal Justice information pages**

<http://www.autism.org.uk/working-with/criminal-justice.aspx>

**Offenders' Families Helpline**

<http://www.offendersfamilieshelpline.org/>

**Open Justice**

<http://open.justice.gov.uk/>

**POPS – information for families**

<http://www.partnersofprisoners.co.uk/>

**Prisoners' families and friends service**

<http://pffs.org.uk/>

## **Prison Reform Trust**

<http://www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/>

*No One Knows* project:

<http://www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/ProjectsResearch/Learningdisabilitiesanddifficulties>

*Fair Access to Justice* Report

<http://www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/Publications/ItemId/156/vw/1>

## **Prison service instructions/prison service orders:**

<https://www.justice.gov.uk/offenders/psis>

## **Rethink Mental Illness criminal justice system pages**

<http://www.rethink.org/living-with-mental-illness/police-courts-prison>

## **Sentencing Council (includes sentencing guidelines)**

<http://www.sentencingcouncil.org.uk/>

## **Youth justice board**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/youth-justice-board-for-england-and-wales>



*National minimum standards for youth justice services*

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/  
national-standards-for-youth-justice-services](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-standards-for-youth-justice-services)

*Protected education in YOIs guidance*

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/  
protected-time-for-education-in-yois](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protected-time-for-education-in-yois)

*Young people and the secure estate: needs and interventions*

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/y  
oung-people-and-the-secure-estate](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/young-people-and-the-secure-estate)

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