



**WHAT HAPPENS IN  
POLICE CUSTODY?**

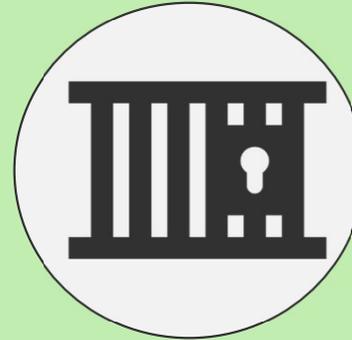
# THE PROCESS



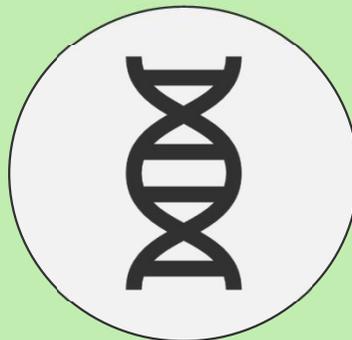
The process may not always happen in this order or it may not be necessary to take part in every stage.



**BOOKING-IN**



**DETENTION**



**PROCESSING**



**INTERVIEW**

# KEY DEFINITIONS

**AA**

**APPROPRIATE ADULT** - an independent person who must come to the police station to help support someone in police custody



**INTERVIEW CAUTION** – a document which says what evidence may be used in court and what rights someone has in a police interview



**BOOKING-IN** – a process where detention is authorised and personal information is put into a police database



**PROCESSING** – a process where DNA, fingerprints and photographs are collected and stored on a police database



**BAIL** – when someone is released from police custody on the agreement they will come back at a later date and follow any other conditions such as living in a certain place



**RISK ASSESSMENT** – a process where risks to detainees and others in police custody are identified and recorded



**CUSTODY RECORD** – an official record of arrest, detention and anything that happens to someone when they are in police custody



**SMARTWATER** – a liquid with a unique identity code that can be applied to property so it can be traced to the owner



**CHARGE** – a formal claim that someone has committed a crime. A charge sheet will be given to them to say what the crime is. They may then be punished for the crime.



**SOLICITOR** - a person qualified to give people advice on the law and their rights as a suspect of a crime



**FORMAL CAUTION** – a warning which may be given to someone if they admit to a crime. It is not a criminal conviction but may be used as evidence of bad character in the future.



**TRIGGER OFFENCE** – a crime such as theft, burglary or arson which may be linked to drugs and warrant additional procedures

# WHO IS WHO?



## DETENTION OFFICER

A member of police staff who will look after you in police custody.

They will be responsible for assisting with the booking-in and processing your personal information (i.e. fingerprints). They will also visit you in the cell from time to time to see if you need anything.



## CUSTODY SERGEANT

A police officer who is responsible for making sure you are looked after in police custody.

They will say if you can be detained while the crime is investigated. They will also make sure the law which says how you should be looked after in police custody is followed.



## HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL

A professional person with medical expertise who is allowed to work in police custody. This may be a doctor or custody nurse.

They may come and see you if you have an injury or illness to check if you need any medical help. They may also ask you questions to check if it is okay to interview you.



## LIAISON AND DIVERSION TEAM

A group of people who help to identify vulnerable people in police custody.

They may be asked to come and talk to you in police custody to see what help and support you need. They may decide to refer you to health services when you leave police custody.

## BOOKING-IN

When you arrive at the police station you will be taken to a charging desk. You be told why you have been arrested and brought to the police station.

You will be asked questions about yourself and any medical conditions you may have. You will also be told about your legal rights in police custody. You will also be asked questions to make sure you and other people will be safe in police custody.

You will be asked to hand over personal items such as your mobile phone, wallet, shoe laces, watch and belt. These will be put in a bag and stored in a locker. These will be given back when you leave unless they need to be used as evidence. You will also be searched by a detention officer. They will run their hands over you to check for anything you might have hidden on you.



**MEDICAL  
INFORMATION**



**LEGAL RIGHTS**



**PERSONAL  
SEARCH**

# PROCESSING



## FINGERPRINTING

A detention officer will put on some gloves and set up the machine.

You will be asked to place your fingers on the glass and roll each one. You will then place your palm on the glass. They may touch you to make sure you do this right.



## DNA SAMPLE

A detention officer will put on some gloves and set up the equipment.

They will take a swab of saliva using a large cotton bud from the inside of your mouth.



## PHOTOGRAPH/ ID CAPTURE

You may be asked to sit in front of a camera and/or a photobooth and listen to instructions so an image of you can be recorded.

If you are asked to record an image for the ID capture, you may have to wear different clothing so you do not stand out unfairly from other people in the line up.

# PROCESSING



## SMARTWATER

You may be asked to do a test to check if you have come into contact with Smartwater.

A detention officer will turn off the light and a blue UV light will come on. You will be asked to turn around.



## DRUG TESTING

If you are suspected of a trigger offence or an Inspector requests one, you will have to give a sample to test for illegal drugs in your body.

A detention officer will give you the test and ask you to place it inside your mouth. You will have to keep this in your mouth for a little while. A machine will test the sample.



## STRIP SEARCH

You may be taken to a side room by a detention officer.

You will be shown what to do and asked to remove items of clothing to check if you have hidden anything inside you.

## **DURING DETENTION**

You may ask to see a doctor or nurse if you have an injury or illness. You may also ask to see the mental health team if you have any mental health conditions.

While you are at the police station you will be locked in a police cell. You may only be detained in the police cell for up to 24 hours without charge unless an extension of this time has been approved. Your detention will be reviewed by an Inspector.

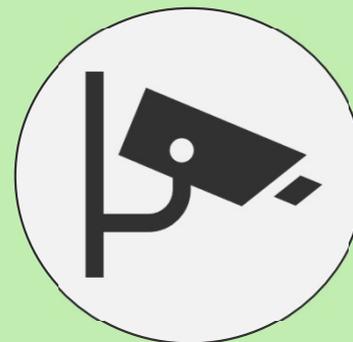
A detention officer will come and check on you from time to time. They may open the hatch of the cell door to talk to you and they will bring you food and drink. You may be watched on the CCTV camera. This may not be watched all the time and you will not be seen using the toilet on the video.



**MEDICAL  
ASSESSMENT**

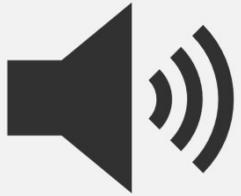


**LOCKED IN  
A CELL**



**MONITORING**

**Tell someone if it is too:**



**NOISY**



**BRIGHT**



**HOT OR COLD**

**Tell someone if you need:**



**FOOD OR  
DRINK**



**A SHOWER**



**TOILETRIES**

# INTERVIEW

A **SOLICITOR** WILL BE IN THE INTERVIEW IF YOU ASK FOR ONE TO BE THERE

You will be asked questions about what happened. Your solicitor may advise you how to answer. If you are not sure about what is being asked, you can ask for help.



You may be taken to an interview room by a police officer to do an interview. This will be recorded.

AN **APPROPRIATE ADULT** WILL BE IN THE INTERVIEW IF CUSTODY STAFF ASK FOR ONE TO HELP YOU DURING YOUR DETENTION

# WHAT NEXT?



## CHARGED WITH AN OFFENCE

If the police decide there is enough evidence to support the claim you have committed a crime, you will be charged.

They will then decide if it is safe to release you on bail until you have to appear in court. If you cannot be bailed, you will go to court and you may have to go to prison.



## RELEASED UNDER INVESTIGATION

If the police need more time to investigate the crime, you may be released under investigation.

You will then be able to leave and the police will continue their investigations. You will not have to come back to police custody unless you are released on bail. If you are released on bail, you may also have to follow conditions. These will be explained.



## OUT OF COURT DISPOSAL

If the police decide there is enough evidence to support the claim you have committed a crime, the case may be closed at the station.

You may have to pay a fine or given a formal caution if you admit to committing the offence. You may also be released without any further action being taken.



## RELEASED WITHOUT CHARGE

If the police do not have enough evidence to support the claim you have committed a crime, you may be released without any further action being taken.

You will then be able to go home. Nothing else will happen unless there is new evidence or you are arrested for another crime.

**Created by the Nottinghamshire Autism Police Partnership (2019)**



**University of  
Nottingham**  
UK | CHINA | MALAYSIA