



safe4
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Breaking the Law

Sub Charter



HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT
CONSTABULARY



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Many young people aren't sure about what to expect if they break the law and the police get involved. It's important to know what can happen if you are ever involved in a crime and dealt with by the police; this information explains more about how we manage young people who are suspected of having committed a crime.

Hampshire and IOW Constabulary is committed to making Hampshire and the Isle of Wight a safe place to live, work and visit for everyone; it is our duty to investigate anyone who breaks the law.

Useful to know..

The Age of Criminal Responsibility

The law states that from 10yrs old (in England and Wales) you should know the difference between right and wrong, which is why you can be arrested if you break the law.

Under 18 years old

If you break the law and you are under the age of 18, the police will treat you as a young person, not as an adult. Police will always put your safety and welfare first before dealing with any crime you may have been involved in.

Making Mistakes

The police accept that young people will sometimes make mistakes or bad choices, so the facts will always be considered in any situation to ensure a fair decision is made on how to deal with you, if you break the law.

Criminal Record

Getting involved in crime and getting a police or criminal record can have a big effect on your future when you want to travel to certain countries or if you apply for a job working with vulnerable people of that require security clearance.

Peer Pressure

We know young people can be pressured or influenced by others, If this has happened in your case, tell us. We will take this into account when managing your case.

Help and Support

If there are reasons why you are committing a crime, tells us. We may be able to help and support you to make positive changes and avoid breaking the law again.

Will I be arrested?

If you are suspected of being involved in a crime, you could be attested and taken to a police station to be interviewed, but police will avoid doing this with a young person whenever possible. Another way we can investigate a crime without arresting you is through a voluntary interview.

What happens next?

Once you have been interviewed, the record of what you have said will be added to all the other evidence and will be looked at by the officer dealing with the case.

They will consider all the different ways they can deal with the case and bring it to a final outcome, this can range from 'no further action' to being sent to court.

It may take time to reach a decision but you will be contacted as soon as possible to explain the outcome.

What is a Voluntary interview?

You are asked to come to a police station with your parent/carer or other trusted adult on an agreed date and time; it will be explained to you that you are free to bring legal representation if you wish.

You will be asked questions about any involvement you may have had in the crime being investigated. This is your chance to give your side of the story and is called 'your account'.

The officer will read and explain the caution before asking you questions and explain what it means so you understand.

You are not under arrest during the interview but if you try to leave at any time, the officer can arrest you to ensure the interview is completed.

Questions and your replies are recorded by the officer interviewing you, copies will be signed and sealed as evidence.

In some cases, the officer may be able to question you at home; or with permission at your school/college.

For more information and advice about breaking the law and the rights of young people visit:

Safe4Me: <https://www.safe4me.co.uk/>

Law Stuff: [What can happen to me if I break the law? – lawstuff.org.uk](http://www.lawstuff.org.uk)



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