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The role of the Appropriate Adult (in relation to PACE 1984)

The role of the Appropriate Adult is someone who supports a young person or a mentally vulnerable adult when they have been arrested and taken into Police custody.

Social services are obliged to provide this support if a suitable person cannot be found who is either related to or a friend of the detainee.

The position of an Appropriate Adult is a voluntary post and relies on Social workers, CPNs and anyone else who is willing to take on the role.

This one day course will familiarise staff with the implications of the Appropriate Adult role as required in the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE).

It will explore the rights of the Appropriate Adult in relation to the detention, questioning and the general way in which a person is treated in custody.

The Aims of the course

- 1) To understand the legislative requirements of PACE as they relate to the role of the Appropriate Adult.
- 2) To be able to list the rights of the Appropriate Adult and the detainee when in custody.
- 3) To demonstrate knowledge of the principals involved in supporting a child or mentally vulnerable adult when they have been arrested.
- 4) To apply the above knowledge and demonstrate how it should be used in practise.

Course Objectives

The following areas will be covered;

The history of the Appropriate Adult and PACE

Skills required for an Appropriate Adult

Receiving the referral information

The custody block area and its function

The private interview with the detainee

The taped interview

After the interview

The taking of DNA, fingerprints, photographs and other samples

Charging, Bail or No Further Action

How and who to formally complain to

Personal Safety Awareness

Group Discussion/Group Exercise/ Hand-outs and a booklet will be provided