



## Benefits Service

# Interviews Under Caution

## Information Leaflet

This document can be made available in large print, Braille, tape format or in other languages upon request

### Why have you asked me to attend an interview under caution?

We ask you to attend an interview under caution if we think there are grounds to suspect you have committed a criminal offence.

This does not mean we believe you are guilty or that we will prosecute you. It means the evidence we have so far suggests you **may** have committed an offence.

We hold an interview to give you the opportunity to provide an explanation of the events. If evidence emerges during the interview that you have committed an offence, we may prosecute you.

### Do I have to attend an interview?

No, you do not have to attend an interview. However if you do not, this will not stop us from taking further action, such as prosecuting you in the Criminal Courts.

### Who can come to the interview with me?

Anyone who is not connected to the investigation can come to the interview with you. This could be a friend, a social worker, a solicitor or a relative.

If the person coming to the interview with you is not a solicitor or legal advisor, they are with you for moral support only. They have no right to speak, to advise you, or to ask or answer any questions during the interview.

**We do not have childcare facilities. We will not interview you if you have a dependant child with you at the time of the interview.**

You can have a solicitor or legal adviser with you, or the local Advice Bureau may be able to help you.

If you have a hearing impediment let us know before the interview and we will arrange for someone to sign.

If English is not your first language, or you have difficulty in understanding and answering in English, we will provide a translator at no cost to you. Please let us know at least 2 days before the interview if you would like us to arrange this service.

## What happens at the interview?

As soon as you enter the interview room, we will unseal two cassette tapes from their packaging in front of you and put them into a tape recorder. We will then switch on the tape recorder and will record the interview. Before we ask you any questions we will explain several things to you, including:

- We are tape recording the interview.
- We are conducting the interview following the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.
- A copy of the Codes of Practice for the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 is available for you to consult.
- We will caution you and advise you of your rights (you are not under arrest, you are free to leave the interview and you may seek legal advice at any time).
- Why we have asked you to attend the interview.

## We will then ask you questions about your benefit claim.

We are not bound to accept the first answer you give but we are under a duty to try to find out the truth.

At the end of the interview we will ask you to sign a paper seal that we will use to seal one of the tapes.

We will give you a form explaining how you can have access to a copy of the tape.

We will also give you a leaflet explaining what will happen next.

## Who will interview me?

Usually one or two officers from the Investigation Team will interview you. These officers are specially trained to conduct interviews under caution.

Sometimes we carry out joint investigations with other agencies, such as the Department for Work and Pensions and the Inland Revenue. If your case is a joint investigation, an officer from the Council and an officer from the other agency may interview you. If so, we will explain this at the interview.

## How to contact us



**Phone** us on 01643 703704  
Monday to Friday between 8.30am and 5.15pm



**Write** to us at: Benefits, West Somerset Council, West Somerset House, Killick Way, Williton, Taunton, Somerset, TA4 4QA



**Email** us at  
[benefits@westsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:benefits@westsomerset.gov.uk)



**In Person** at the Minehead Customer Centre, 1-3 Summerland Road between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday, or the Council Offices at Williton between 8.30am and 5pm Monday to Thursday, and 8.30am to 4.30 pm on Friday



**Download** forms, leaflets and information from our website at  
[www.westsomersetonline.gov.uk](http://www.westsomersetonline.gov.uk)

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