



# Witness Intermediary Scheme

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# What are Intermediaries?

- ❑ Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999: Special Measures Provisions
- ❑ Section 29 provides for the examination of a witness to be conducted through an intermediary approved by the courts



# Who are they for?

Prosecution and defence witnesses:

- ☐ who need help to communicate their best evidence

- ☐ and fall into any of the following categories:



# Who are they for?

- ☐ Witnesses under 17 years of age;
- ☐ Witnesses suffering from a mental disorder or significant impairment of intelligence and social functioning, or
- ☐ physical disability or disorder, that is likely to diminish the quality of their evidence



# Who are Intermediaries?

Communication specialists from a wide range of professions

❑ eg speech and language therapy, psychology, occupational health, mental health, nursing, teaching, community care, etc



# What do they do?

- ☐ Provide communication assistance at the investigation stage and/or at court
- ☐ Explain the questions or answers so far as is necessary to enable them to be understood by the witness or the questioner but without changing the substance of the evidence



# What they are

- ❑ Officers of the court – approved by the court to facilitate communication
- ❑ Neutral - their responsibility is to the court and to justice - not to act on behalf of the prosecution, defence or even the witness



# What they are not

- ☐ Not investigators
- ☐ Role different to appropriate adults, witness supporters or expert witnesses





# How do they help?

Practitioners in the six pilot areas believed at least half of the cases would not have reached the trial stage without the involvement of an intermediary



# How do I get one?

- ☐ Available in all police force and CPS areas in England & Wales
- ☐ National register of intermediaries established and maintained by OCJR
- ☐ Matching Service – based at the NPIA



# Contacts

## ☐ Further information

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## ☐ Matching Service

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