

Before a police interview

Use this to prepare for a private discussion with your solicitor. Missing paperwork should not delay asking for legal advice.

☐ **Appointment details**

Police force, station, officer, reference number, interview date and any deadline.

☐ **What police have told you**

The alleged offence and any incident date or location. Keep known facts separate from assumptions.

☐ **Police paperwork**

Invitation, arrest or release documents, and any bail conditions or return date.

☐ **Evidence leads**

Identify original messages, footage, documents or witnesses. Preserve originals and flag material at risk of deletion.

☐ **Support needs**

Medication, health concerns, language or accessibility needs, and whether an appropriate adult may be required.

Someone is detained now? Ask custody staff for a solicitor. Free independent legal advice is available at the police station. A relative contacting the firm should give the station and detention details if known.

Keep your detailed account for private legal consultation. Do not contact a complainant or witnesses to coordinate accounts, or alter or delete relevant material. This checklist is not a script for answering questions.

Questions or information to raise with your solicitor

Representation and appointment arrangements must be confirmed. A website enquiry alone does not confirm that a solicitor has been instructed.

Checking a custody record

Use a separate note and leave the original record unchanged. This checklist concerns ordinary police detention after arrest.

- ☐ **Chronology**
Compare arrest, arrival, detention authorisation, reviews, interviews and release. Include dates across midnight; identify transfers or hospital attendance.
- ☐ **Advice and welfare**
Check requests for a solicitor, healthcare, medication, an interpreter or an appropriate adult. Identify anything missing or inconsistent with your recollection.
- ☐ **A disputed entry**
Note the entry and time, what you dispute, what you remember, and any supporting material. Ask your solicitor to raise the concern and seek a recorded response.
- ☐ **Access and a copy**
Ask your solicitor about access during detention and requesting a copy afterwards. Code C paragraphs 2.4-2.5 set out these rights; the right to request a copy lasts 12 months after release.

Keep separate issues separate. A custody record is not the interview recording or custody CCTV. Tell your solicitor promptly about footage or other material that may need preserving. An apparent error does not by itself prove unlawful detention.

Entry / time and concern to discuss

Official source: PACE Code C 2023, particularly paragraphs 2.4-2.5, section 6 and paragraph 11.1A. Source checked 12 October 2026. Different codes apply to some specialist detention regimes.

Read the official Code C on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/115144/Code_C_2023.pdf)
Visit the Theodorous police-station guide