

Justice Advocacy Service

Making a referral

If you identify a victim, witness or suspect/defendant as potentially having a cognitive impairment, you can make a referral to the Justice Advocacy Service (JAS) by calling **1300 665 908**.

If you are unsure whether the person has a cognitive impairment, it is always better to call JAS.

Referrals for a JAS support at court or at a legal appointment can be made between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday by calling **1300 665 908**.

Referrals for a person who is under arrest at a police station can be made 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling **1300 665 908**.

Even if the person under arrest has a support person with them such as a disability support worker or a family member, a JAS support person can assist and guide this person through the arrest process if required.

Obtaining the person's consent:

Prior to making a referral, you should speak to the person to let them know you would like to call JAS. You can explain to the person that a JAS support person can support them while they are in contact with police, court or legal representatives. A JAS team member will speak to the person to confirm consent.

More information about the role of a JAS support person is available in the *Justice Advocacy Service Support Person Fact Sheet*.

When making a referral to JAS, the following information should be provided:

- Name of the person requiring the support.
- Contact details.
- Any alternative contact names and numbers.
- Date of birth if known.
- Upcoming dates for court or legal meetings.

Additional information may be sought from the referrer to ensure the most appropriate type of support is arranged for the person.

Eligibility:

JAS is available to victims, witnesses and suspects/defendants in contact with the NSW criminal justice system who may have a cognitive impairment. A potential client will not need to provide evidence of cognitive impairment to access the service.

As per the *Mental Health and Cognitive Impairment Forensic Provisions Act 2020(NSW)* cognitive impairment includes (without limitation) any of the following:

- intellectual disability
- borderline intellectual functioning
- dementia'
- acquired brain injury'
- drug or alcohol related brain damage, including foetal alcohol spectrum disorder.
- autism spectrum disorder.

For more information

Visit the website: www.justiceadvocacy.org.au

Email JAS: justiceadvocacy@idrs.org.au Call

JAS: 1300 665 908