

## Information for Police Officers

### About JAS

JAS supports young people (& adults) with cognitive impairment in contact with the NSW criminal justice system, including as victims, witnesses, and suspects/defendants to exercise their rights and fully participate in the process.

JAS is funded by the Department of Communities & Justice.

### Why JAS?

JAS will support a young person (from 10 years of age) or adult with cognitive impairment at the Police Station when they are

- ✓ Under arrest
- ✓ Reporting a crime to Police as a victim or witness
- ✓ Being interviewed by Police as a victim, witness or suspect in a criminal matter
- ✓ Being cautioned under the Young Offenders Act

JAS will also connect people to disability and/or mainstream services. Evidence of cognitive impairment is not required.

### What is cognitive impairment?

The *Mental Health and Cognitive Impairment Forensic Provisions Act 2020* (NSW) defines cognitive impairment as including 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.

### Young person or Adult under arrest?

JAS accepts referrals from Police for young people and adults in custody 24/7.

JAS can provide a support person and arrange legal advice 24/7.

If a person in custody

- o has a lawyer we can provide a support person to attend the police station
- o has a lawyer and a support person, we can provide telephone support to that support person and in person support at Court
- o requires immediate referrals to services, we can do that over the phone e.g. crisis accommodation.

Non custody referrals can be made between **9am to 5pm Monday to Friday** by calling **1300 665 908** or visiting [www.idrs.org.au/jas/jas-online-referral](http://www.idrs.org.au/jas/jas-online-referral).

### For more information

Visit our website  
[www.justiceadvocacy.org.au](http://www.justiceadvocacy.org.au)

Email JAS  
[justiceadvocacy@idrs.org.au](mailto:justiceadvocacy@idrs.org.au)

Call JAS  
**1300 665 908**

