

Your first step to **achieving best evidence** with **vulnerable witnesses**

Who are we?

We are the **Witness Intermediary Team** based within the Specialist Operation Centre at NCA. We provide **specialist advice** throughout your investigation and a matching service to locate the most suitably trained **Registered Intermediary** for your vulnerable victim or witness.

Who are Registered Intermediaries?

Registered Intermediaries are specialists in communication (speech and language therapist, psychologist, psychiatric nurses, mental health professionals, special need teachers etc). They are vetted by the Ministry of Justice and trained by the City Law School to familiarise themselves with the criminal justice system and their role within it.

Registered Intermediaries enable vulnerable victims and witnesses to give complete, coherent and accurate evidence by ensuring the vulnerable victim or witness understands the questions put to them. They ensure they have an effective means of communication to respond. This can be done by using speech, symbols, communication aids, drawing and writing.

Which vulnerable victims and witnesses qualify to use the Witness Intermediary Scheme?

- Children aged under 18
- Children and adults with learning difficulties such as autism, dyspraxia, ADHD, selective/elective mutism.
- Children and adults with mental health issues such as OCD, schizophrenia, bi-polar.
- Children and adults with neurological and other progressive disorders such as multiple sclerosis, dementia, brain/head injury.

How can we help you?

- Interview advice and strategies for vulnerable and intimidated victims and witnesses
- Support from National Vulnerable Witness Adviser
- Support to Police Officers and Prosecutors in the use of Registered Intermediaries
- Enable vulnerable victims and witnesses achieve best evidence

What you can do

- Registered Intermediaries are self employed and have other professional commitments. Allow a reasonable length of time when requesting a Registered Intermediary for your case, we recommend at least 2 weeks other than in exceptional operational circumstances.
- Add the scheme into relevant policy materials
- Use us and our expertise!

Contact us and learn more about the service and how we can help you to support vulnerable witnesses

Specialist Operations Centre

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