

Your rights and the law

You may be searched if there's a suspicion that you're carrying stolen property, weapons, illegal drugs or anything that might be used to commit a crime.

In public, police can search only your outer clothing. An officer of the same sex must carry out the search if it involves removing more than outer clothing.

If you're under 17 you cannot be questioned at a police station unless a parent, carer or 'appropriate adult' is present.

You have the right to know why you've been arrested, to let someone know where you are, to see a solicitor and see the Codes of Conduct the police must follow.

After being questioned, you may be released, cautioned (or, if under 18, given a reprimand or final warning) or charged.

Useful websites

www.adviceguide.org.uk
www.justask.org.uk
www.childrenslegalcentre.com
www.childline.org.uk

Get Involved!

We want young people's views and opinions about how the Connexions Service should be run. So if you want to contribute to making Connexions a better service then contact us through our website. Alternatively speak to your Connexions Personal Adviser about it.

Need to speak to someone when we are closed?

Talk to Connexions Direct

Call us
080 800 13 2 19

Text us
077664 13 2 19

Webchat or Email
connexions-direct.com

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STOCKPORT

Connexions Centre
64 Chestergate
Stockport SK1 1NP
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Fax: **0161 476 6760**

Email: enquiries@connexions-stockport.co.uk
Web: www.connexions-stockport.org.uk

The Connexions Stockport contract is managed by Stockport Council's Education Services.

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**your
rights and
the law**



Whether you are at school, college, university, working or unemployed you need to understand both your rights and your responsibilities. You need to know how to stay within the law and how the law can protect you. Legal issues can be complicated, so always get proper advice!

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STOCKPORT

Know your rights

As you get older, so your rights and responsibilities increase. Here are some examples:

At 14...

- You can do a part time job but check your local authority regulations.
- You must not work before 7am or after 7pm and must do 'light' work only; not more than two hours on school days or Sundays.

At 16...

- You can apply for your own passport (with your parent's/carer's consent).
- You can buy beer or cider while eating a meal in a restaurant or the eating area of a pub (not the bar).

At 18...

- You can vote in general/local elections, serve on a jury, make a will.
- You can open a bank account without a parent's/carer's signature.

At 19...

- You are entitled to full-time education up to the age of 19 at school or college.
- You can drive a vehicle of up to 75 tons.

Know the law

Driving

It's illegal to drive if:

- You don't have a full or provisional licence.
- You have a provisional licence, but you don't have L-plates displayed and a qualified driver over 21, who has held a full licence for three years, in the front passenger seat.
- The vehicle doesn't have a valid tax disc.
- The vehicle isn't insured for you to drive.
- The vehicle (if over three years old) hasn't passed an MOT within the previous 12 months.

Never drink and drive or use a mobile phone whilst driving or ride with someone who has been drinking or is using a mobile phone. Always use a seatbelt.

Gambling

Under 16s (and sometimes under 18s) are not normally allowed to use fruit machines. Lottery tickets/scratch cards cannot be bought by under 16s nor any winnings collected.

Shoplifting

Shoplifting is theft. Shops have a right to refuse you admission or ask you to leave. Store detectives can make a citizen's arrest, but cannot search you unless you agree. If the police are called, you can be held in the shop until they arrive.

Equal Opportunities

To be treated equally is a basic right for everyone regardless of gender, race, disability, faith, background or sexuality. If you feel that you are being discriminated against for any of these reasons then speak to your Connexions Personal Adviser about it or seek advice from a specialist agency.

Here are some specialist national organisations that can provide help and advice:

The Equal Opportunities Commission – www.eoc.org.uk
The Commission for Racial Equality – www.cre.gov.uk
The Disability Rights Commission – www.drc-gb.org

The Police and the Courts

If you're stopped in the street by the police, they must tell you their name, the station they're from and why they've stopped you.

They may suspect you've done something illegal or are about to break the law, in which case you must give your name and address, but you don't have to answer any questions until you've received legal advice.

Try to stay calm. Getting angry will only increase your chances of being arrested.