

Purpose

To allow children and vulnerable people to understand, and to be understood, in the legal system

Legislation

Section 29, Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act, 1999

‘Their [Intermediaries] primary function is to improve the quality of evidence and aid understanding between the court, the advocates and the witness or defendant.’
(Criminal Practice Direction, 3F.1)

Professional Background

Health professionals (Speech and language therapists, Occupational Therapists, Psychological and mental health professionals)
Education professionals (Teachers, Teaching assistants)
Social Care (Social workers, Support workers)
Legal professionals (Police, Probation, Solicitors)



Status

Neutral, independent & impartial
Assist police/prosecution/ defence/ judge by supporting communication between these parties and the vulnerable person

Registered Intermediaries

Witness Intermediary Scheme: Registered Intermediaries work with vulnerable witnesses (Statutory)

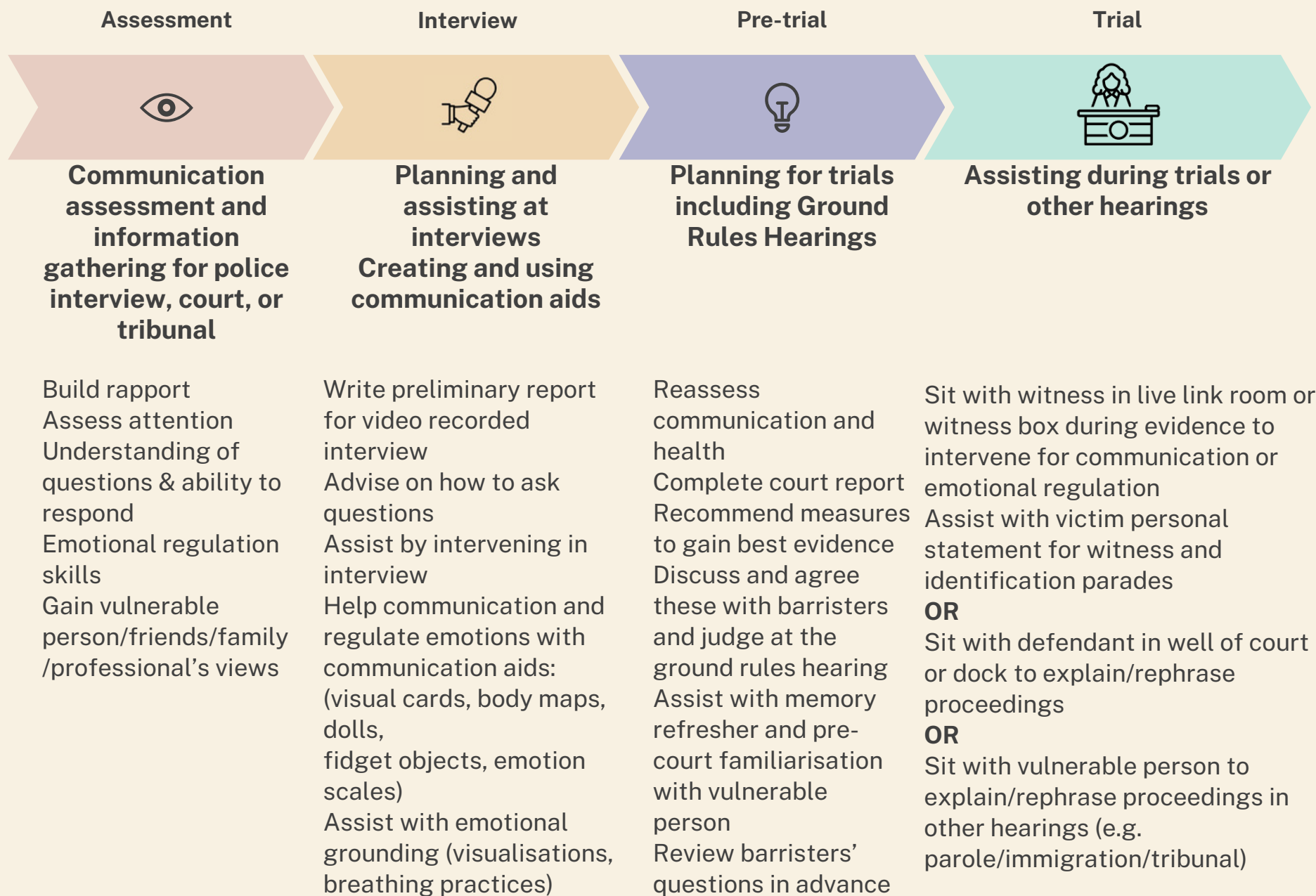
HMCTS Approved Intermediaries and Freelance Intermediaries

HMCTS Approved Intermediary Scheme: Court Approved Intermediaries work with vulnerable defendants and respondents (Discretionary)
including family proceedings & tribunals

Freelance Intermediaries Working in Supplementary Areas

Intermediaries for vulnerable suspects sourced by police or solicitor and funded by police.
Intermediaries in formal proceedings (e.g. parole board hearings, immigration or education tribunals) sourced and funded by the organisation seeking an intermediary.

INTERMEDIARY ROLES



ACCESSING AN INTERMEDIARY

Witnesses in the Criminal Justice System



Registered Intermediary sourced from the Witness Intermediary Scheme, run by NCA

Ministry of Justice Witness Intermediary Scheme - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).
Call Witness Team for advice 0345 000 5463

Officer in charge or CPS paralegal completes a Request For Service form from NCA

Defendants/respondents



Sourced by solicitor who requests a Court Approved Intermediary via HMCTS Approved Intermediary Scheme

HMCTS approved intermediaries - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Appointed at discretion of judge/ magistrate

Solicitor seeks permission/funding from Legal Aid Authority (LAA)

Suspects



Sourced by police or solicitor
Paid for by police

Sourced via Intermediaries for Justice website
www.intermediaries-for-justice.org
or via Approved Service Providers (ASPs)
or via Managed and Approved Service Providers (MASPs) (e.g. The Intermediary Cooperative, Aspire, Communicourt or Triangle).