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## Working with vulnerable witnesses or defendants – useful links

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### **The Advocate's Gateway** – [www.theadvocatesgateway.org](http://www.theadvocatesgateway.org)

The Advocate's Gateway gives free access to practical, evidence-based guidance on vulnerable witnesses and defendants. Their Toolkits are now widely consulted.

### **Autism: The National Autistic Society:** [Advice and Guidance](#)

The National Autistic Society has published practical guides intended to help parents and carers of people with autism, adults with autism and for police officers and professionals involved with people with autism.

### **Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists + The Box Training** – <https://www.rcslt.org/learning/the-box-training/>

The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT) is calling for the communication needs of young people in the justice pathway to be met in an efficient, adequate and timely way. Their campaign entitled 'Locked Up and Locked Out: Communication is the Key' was published in 2009. The report found that at least 60% of young people in the justice system have a communication disability. Improving the skills in offenders by providing targeted speech and language therapy significantly reduces the risk of re-offending.

RCSLT has developed "The Box" training programme, which is a free online learning resource designed for professionals working in the justice sector. The training is designed to give professionals in the justice system the ability to identify communication issues and the skills to work successfully with individuals who have such issues.

The image of a box over one's head was designed to help people think about what a communication difficulty might look like if it were visible.

### **IIIRG** – <https://www.iiirg.org/>

The International Investigative Interviewing Research Group is a worldwide network of



interviewing professionals, working tirelessly with national and International bodies, committed to improving investigative interviewing and ensuring all improvements are underpinned by a robust evidence base.

### **Just for Kids Law** – [www.justforkidslaw.org](http://www.justforkidslaw.org)

Just for Kids Law aim to be the UK's leading experts in youth justice law, sharing their knowledge and expertise, and driving systemic change through strategic litigation and policy reform. They deliver holistic, client-led support to children and young people through their innovative, community-based legal representation, advocacy and opportunities programme.

### **Liberty and Human Rights** – [www.libertyhumanrights.org.uk](http://www.libertyhumanrights.org.uk)

Liberty campaigns to protect civil liberties and promote human rights for everyone. The organisation has 80 years of expertise and promotes the values of individual human dignity, equal treatment and fairness, as the foundations of a democratic society.

### **Mental Health Law in England & Wales** – [www.mentalhealthlaw.co.uk](http://www.mentalhealthlaw.co.uk)

Mental Health Law in England & Wales is the internet resource on mental health law in England & Wales. It is primarily for mental health practitioners; and anyone can contribute.

### **Talking Mats** – [www.talkingmats.com/talking-mats-used-court](http://www.talkingmats.com/talking-mats-used-court)

Talking Mats is a social enterprise with the vision of improving the lives of people with communication difficulties by increasing their capacity to communicate effectively about things that matter to them. Their innovative, award-winning communication tool is based on extensive research and was designed by Speech and Language Therapists.

### **Victims and Witnesses: Crown Prosecution Service** – <https://www.cps.gov.uk/victims-witnesses>

Championing justice and defending the rights of victims is firmly and effectively at the heart of all that CPS does.

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