



Translation of the Judges Rules Caution into Irish Sign Language (ISL)

An Garda Síochána is committed to providing an accessible and inclusive policing service to all communities. In this respect, An Garda Síochána in partnership with Centre for Deaf Studies, Trinity College Dublin have developed an Irish Sign Language (ISL) translation of the Judges Rules Caution in electronic video format. This translation has been approved by the Director of Public Prosecutions.

ISL is recognised in law through the Irish Sign Language Act 2017, which places a legal obligation on An Garda Síochána to *'do all that is reasonable to ensure that interpretation into Irish Sign Language is provided for a person who is competent in that language and cannot hear or understand English or Irish when that person is seeking to avail of or access statutory entitlements or services provided by or under statute by that public body.'*

Judges Rules Caution Translation

An Garda Síochána recognises that persons who use ISL are at risk of vulnerability, and that deprivation of liberty will amplify this risk of vulnerability. An Garda Síochána will continually assess for risk of harm and vulnerability, and will always ensure equal access to justice.

An Garda Síochána will ensure that the person to whom they administer the caution understands what is happening and the implications for them. In this regard, it is of paramount importance that the caution is administered together with the caution explanation at the earliest possible opportunity.

Caution

Members of An Garda Síochána are reminded that in the English language, in circumstances where the Judges Rules come into play, the following caution wording is applicable:

"You are not obliged to say anything unless you wish to do so but whatever you say will be taken down in writing and may be given in evidence."

Caution Explanation

The caution means that you have the right to remain silent. You do not have to answer any questions. If you have any comments or explanation you wish to give, they will be recorded in writing. They may be used in evidence in court proceedings.

Electronic Video Recording of the Caution and Explanation

An [Electronic Video Recording](#) of the caution and explanation is available on the Garda Website and may assist members when engaging with those who are suspected of a criminal offence (where the Judges rules apply) and in circumstances where a Registered ISL Interpreter is required and not immediately available. Where used, the Electronic Video Recording should be shown as soon as practicable but it is not a replacement for the requirement to seek a Registered ISL Interpreter in accordance with the 2017 Act. It is deemed a reasonable and initial step where the Judges Rules Caution is required to inform a suspect of their right to remain silent.

The Electronic Video Recorded version of the caution will alert the ISL user to their right to remain silent at the earliest opportunity. This aims to ensure that suspects are treated fairly, that their rights are safeguarded, and that they are afforded full and informed participation in the criminal investigative process.

This initiative is part of the commitment of An Garda Síochána to respect and protect the Human and Constitutional rights, including equality of treatment, of the Deaf community in accordance with the Constitution, European Convention on Human Rights and statutory obligations. Under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD) where Sign Language users are expressly reference, An Garda Síochána will ensure effective access to justice for persons with disabilities on an equal basis with other communities.