



Crime and Disorder Act 1998

1998 CHAPTER 37

PART IV

DEALING WITH OFFENDERS

CHAPTER I

ENGLAND AND WALES

[^{F1}Young offenders: youth cautions

[^{F1}66ZA Youth cautions

- (1) A constable may give a child or young person (“Y”) a caution under this section (a “youth caution”) if—
 - (a) the constable decides that there is sufficient evidence to charge Y with an offence,
 - (b) Y admits to the constable that Y committed the offence, and
 - (c) the constable does not consider that Y should be prosecuted or given a youth conditional caution in respect of the offence.
- (2) A youth caution ^{F2}... must be given in the presence of an appropriate adult.
- (3) If a constable gives a youth caution to a person, the constable must explain the matters referred to in subsection (4) in ordinary language to—
 - (a) that person, and
 - (b) ^{F3}... the appropriate adult.
- (4) Those matters are—
 - (a) the effect of subsections (1) to (3) and (5) to (7) of section 66ZB, and
 - (b) any guidance issued under subsection (4) of that section.

Changes to legislation: *Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Section 66ZA is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 20 June 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

- (5) The Secretary of State must publish, in such manner as the Secretary of State considers appropriate, guidance as to—
- (a) the circumstances in which it is appropriate to give youth cautions,
 - (b) the places where youth cautions may be given,
 - (c) the category of constable by whom youth cautions may be given, and
 - (d) the form which youth cautions are to take and the manner in which they are to be given and recorded.
- (6) No caution other than a youth caution or a youth conditional caution may be given to a child or young person.
- (7) In this Chapter “appropriate adult”, in relation to a child or young person, means—
- (a) a parent or guardian of the child or young person,
 - (b) if the child or young person is in the care of a local authority or voluntary organisation, a person representing that authority or organisation,
 - (c) a social worker of a local authority, or
 - (d) if no person falling within paragraph (a), (b) or (c) is available, any responsible person aged 18 or over who is not a police officer or ^{[F4} a person employed for, or engaged on, police purposes; and “police purposes” has the meaning given by section 101(2) of the Police Act 1996] .]

Textual Amendments

- F1** Ss. 66ZA, 66ZB and cross-heading inserted (8.4.2013) by [Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 \(c. 10\)](#), **ss. 135(2)**, 151(1) (with s. 135(4)); S.I. 2013/453, art. 4(d)
- F2** Words in s. 66ZA(2) omitted (13.4.2015) by virtue of [Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015 \(c. 2\)](#), **ss. 41(2)(a)**, 95(1); S.I. 2015/778, art. 3, Sch. 1 para. 33
- F3** Words in s. 66ZA(3)(b) omitted (13.4.2015) by virtue of [Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015 \(c. 2\)](#), **ss. 41(2)(b)**, 95(1); S.I. 2015/778, art. 3, Sch. 1 para. 33
- F4** Words in s. 66ZA(7)(d) substituted (31.1.2017 for specified purposes, 3.4.2017 in so far as not already in force) by [Policing and Crime Act 2017 \(c. 3\)](#), **ss. 79(2)**, 183(1)(5)(e); S.I. 2017/399, reg. 2, Sch. para. 27

Changes to legislation:

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 1(1C) inserted by [2010 c. 17 s. 40\(2\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 40 repealed (23.3.2015) without ever being in force by 2014 c. 12, Sch. 11 para. 46; S.I. 2015/373, art. 4(f)(x))
- s. 8A inserted by [2010 c. 17 s. 41\(3\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 41 repealed (23.3.2015) without ever being in force by 2014 c. 12, Sch. 11 para. 46; S.I. 2015/373, art. 4(f)(x))
- s. 8A repealed by [2014 c. 12 Sch. 11 para. 24\(c\)](#)
- s. 9(2)(d) and word inserted by [2010 c. 17 s. 41\(4\)\(b\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 41 repealed (23.3.2015) without ever being in force by 2014 c. 12, Sch. 11 para. 46; S.I. 2015/373, art. 4(f)(x))
- s. 9(2)(d) and word omitted by [2014 c. 12 Sch. 11 para. 26\(4\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 9(2AA) inserted by [2010 c. 17 s. 41\(4\)\(c\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 41 repealed (23.3.2015) without ever being in force by 2014 c. 12, Sch. 11 para. 46; S.I. 2015/373, art. 4(f)(x))
- s. 9(2AA) repealed by [2014 c. 12 Sch. 11 para. 26\(5\)](#)
- s. 41(5)(i)(ii) words substituted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 37\(3\)](#)
- s. 47(A1) inserted by [2022 c. 35 s. 12\(2\)](#)
- s. 47(1)-(1F) substituted for s. 47(1) by [2022 c. 35 s. 12\(3\)](#)
- s. 47(4)(a) word substituted by [2022 c. 35 s. 12\(6\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 47(4)(a) words renumbered as s. 47(4)(a) by [2022 c. 35 s. 12\(6\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 47(4)(b) and word inserted by [2022 c. 35 s. 12\(6\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 47(4A) inserted by [2022 c. 35 s. 12\(7\)](#)
- s. 50A(6) inserted by [2022 c. 35 Sch. 2 para. 8\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 51(2A)-(2E) inserted by [2022 c. 35 s. 10\(4\)](#)
- s. 51(3A)(3B) substituted for s. 51(3)-(12) by [2022 c. 35 s. 10\(5\)](#)
- s. 51A(A1) inserted by [2022 c. 35 s. 10\(7\)](#)
- s. 51A(3A)-(3E) inserted by [2022 c. 35 s. 10\(9\)](#)
- s. 51A(4A)(4B) substituted for s.0051A(4)-(10) by [2022 c. 35 s. 10\(10\)](#)
- s. 52(2A) inserted by [2022 c. 35 s. 10\(11\)](#)
- Sch. 3 para. 3(11A) inserted by [2003 c. 44 Sch. 3 para. 71\(d\)](#)