

Information sheet for my research

Do people with mental health conditions or learning disabilities get enough help to communicate in court?



easy
read



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In this easy read document, difficult words are in **bold**. We explain what these words mean in the sentence after they have been used.



Some words are [blue and underlined](#). These are links which will go to another website which has more information.

Introduction



My name is Edmore Masendeke.

I am a disabled PhD student at the University of Leeds School of Law.



I am trying to find out if **defendants** with mental health conditions or learning disabilities get enough help to communicate and understand what happens in court.



A **defendant** is someone who is accused of doing something wrong by law.



I would like to interview people to help with my research.



This document will give you information about the research so you can decide if you want to join in.

My research



I am doing interviews with defendants who have mental health conditions or learning disabilities to find out if they:



- had someone to help them:
 - understand what was going on in court
 - understand the questions they were asked in court
 - make the court understand their answers



- feel the help they received worked well for them or not.



I want to find out if the help people receive supports their **human rights**.

Human rights are things you are allowed to have and do by law.

Who I want to hear from

I would like to hear from you if you have:



- a mental health condition or learning disability
- been a defendant in the past 4 years
- had to go to court in England or Ireland
- had help from someone to help you communicate or understand what was going on in court.

I am interested in talking to you if you had help from:



- an intermediary - this is someone who helps you talk to another person or organisation
- a disability advocate - this is someone who helps you to speak up or speaks up for you if you have a disability
- an expert in communication
- family members or friends.

Taking part in the research



You do not need to take part in the research if you don't want to.



You don't have to decide straight away.



Please read this information carefully and talk about it with others if you like.



Please ask me if there is anything that is not clear.

How you would take part



I want to find out:

- whether you think the help you received worked well



- if you want this type of help to be changed in any way.



To find these things out I would need to interview you.

The interview would be like a conversation where I ask you questions.



You do not need to say anything you don't want to.



The interview would happen either by telephone or online video, and take about 1 hour.



If you are disabled, you can ask me to make changes to the interview to help you take part.



You can have someone with you, but they should:

- not answer for you
- only speak if it helps you.



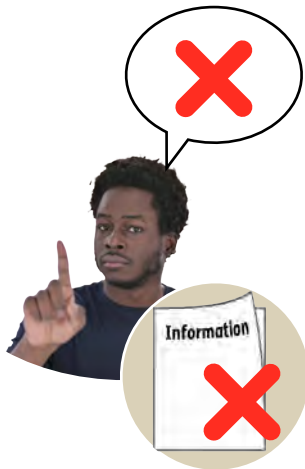
Some people don't understand my speech, so my assistant Parth Shah may help by repeating what I say.



If you feel upset during the interview or need a break, you can let me know.



You can decide that you want to stop taking part in my research at any time up to 60 days after the interview.



You don't have to say why you want to stop taking part and I will not keep your information.

Keeping your details safe



Your details will be kept as private as possible.



Only people working on the research with me will see your details. They will agree to keep things private.



If you need someone to be with you in the interview, please let me know beforehand. I will need to check that they:

- are there to support you, not take part for you
- will promise not to tell anyone what was said in the interview.





If you tell me that you or someone else might be in danger, I may have to tell someone about it. I will talk to you first.



You will be recorded in the interview. The recordings will be:

- kept safe and private



- deleted 6 months after my research is completed.



The results of my research will be available from the University of Leeds.



Your name will not be used, and neither will the names of anyone you talk about.

More information

If you have any questions about my research please contact me by:



- post: Edmore Masendeke
School of Law, Liberty
Building
University of Leeds
Leeds LS2 9JT



- email: lw12etm@leeds.ac.uk



- phone: +44 07810 308 216



If you are worried about my research you can contact me.



If you are still worried after contacting me, you can contact my supervisors at the University of Leeds.

This research has:



Marie Skłodowska-Curie
Actions

- received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 814249



- been approved by the University Research Ethics Committee.



If you are interested in taking part in the research, please contact me on the details above.

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