

Good Practice Guide for Justice Professionals

**Guidelines for supporting Clients
and Users of the Justice System
who have Dyslexia and other
Specific Learning Difficulties**



Good Practice Guide for Justice Professionals and Law Enforcement organisations.

Dyslexia and related Specific Learning Difficulties affect around 15% of the population. Neurological and usually genetic in nature, they are unrelated to intelligence, and are recognised disabilities under the Disability Discrimination Act.

These 'hidden disabilities' are often poorly understood and their effect in different settings is rarely appreciated. The judicial Equal Treatment Bench Book has only recently included a new section on this most common area of disability.

The implications of having a Specific Learning Difficulty for anyone caught up in the UK legal and judicial processes can be profoundly disadvantageous and, in some cases, devastating - even leading to miscarriages of justice. Inherent weaknesses in information processing, communication skills and memory can pose significant barriers to credible presentation. Coping strategies are undermined by stress.

Two leading charities in this field: the **British Dyslexia Association** and **DANDA** (Developmental Adult Neuro-Diversity Association) have together produced an authoritative, clear and practical guide for lawyers, the courts and law enforcement organisations. This publication offers guidance in supporting clients and users of the Justice System, from police interviewing and case preparation through to court hearings, including advice for the Probation and Youth Offending services.

Available from June 2009

Cost £10.00

To order, contact the British Dyslexia Association

Tel 0845 251 9003 Email: admin@bdadyslexia.org.uk

Who is this Guide for?

This guide offers practical advice on the impact of Specific Learning Difficulties in police, court and tribunal settings.
It is designed for practitioners and staff working in the Justice System:

Judges

Tribunal Benches

Magistrates

HM Courts Service Staff

Barristers

Solicitors

Legal Executives and Legal Advisers

The Crown Prosecution Service

The Police Service

Police Force Medical Examiners

The Youth Justice Board

Youth Offending Teams

The Probation Service

The Parole Board

N.A.C.R.O.

This subject has been addressed by the Judicial Studies Board in the **Equal Treatment Bench Book, Sections 5.5, 5.6** [www.jsboard.co.uk]

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About the British Dyslexia Association and DANDA