What happens if you are arrested?
What may happen?

If a police officer thinks that you may have committed a crime, you can be arrested.

If you get arrested by a police officer you are taken to a part of the police station called the Custody Suite.

There will be a Custody Sergeant and some other people who are there to make sure that you are kept safe and are treated properly.
The police officers will work quickly to make sure that you are released as soon as possible.

Most people are only in custody for two or three hours. If the crime is very serious you will have to stay in longer.

When you meet the Custody Sergeant, they will ask you lots of questions about yourself.

They are asking these questions to make sure that they can look after you properly and make sure that you have any medicine you need.

They may ask a doctor to come and see you while you are there if you are unwell.
The Custody Sergeant will tell you what your rights are. Rights are the things that all people who have been arrested are allowed.

- You have the right to free legal advice. You may speak to a solicitor and this can be done on the telephone or at the police station. The solicitor is there to help you and they will tell you about the law. This will not cost you any money.

You can decide not to have a solicitor and you can change your mind at any time and have a solicitor.
• You have the right to have someone told that you have been arrested. This will mean that the person who is expecting you to come home will not worry.

• You can read a book called the Codes of Practice which tells you what the police can and cannot do while you are in custody.

• If you have mental health problems or a learning disability you can have someone with you at certain times. They are usually a parent, guardian or a carer and are called an ‘appropriate adult.’
After you have been asked these questions, you may be placed in a cell. You will usually have a cell to yourself. It should have a bed and be clean, tidy and have lights.

You will normally wear your own clothes in a cell. You will have to take your shoes off.

You will be given food if you are in your cell at meal times. You are also allowed drinks.
When the police officers and the solicitor are ready, you will have an interview. An interview is when police officers ask you about the crime they think you have committed.

If you have asked to speak to a solicitor you will be able to do this before the interview. The solicitor may come into the interview with you.

If you have an appropriate adult they will be with you in the interview.
The interview is recorded and you will be able to have a copy if you need it.

You do not have to say anything when you are interviewed. If you tell the police officers one story but change it if you go to court, you may not be believed.

After the interview the police officer will usually put you back in a cell while they decide what to do next.
The police have a choice of what they can do next. These will be explained to you in the custody suite.

The police will usually take your fingerprints. They will usually take some DNA which is some of the wet inside your mouth. These do not hurt.

If you think you have not been treated properly, you can tell your solicitor or the police officers in the custody suite. If you don’t want to do any of these you can tell the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC)