

BEING CHARGED WITH A CRIME

1. Overview

If you are charged with a crime you will be given a 'charge sheet'. This sets out the details of the crime you are being charged with.

The police will decide if you:

- can go home until the court hearing - but may have to follow certain rules, known as 'bail'
- are kept in police custody until you are taken to court for your hearing

Your first court hearing after you are charged with a crime will be at a magistrates' court or a 'virtual court' using video technology - even if your trial will be at a Crown Court later on.

Young people

If you're under 18, your first hearing will usually be at a youth court.

If you're under 17, the police must arrange for you to be held in local authority accommodation, if possible, before you go to court.

If you're aged 12 to 16, the police can decide to keep you at the police station if they think it will protect the public.

2. Bail

You can be released on bail at the police station after you've been charged. This means you will be able to go home until your court hearing.

If you are given bail, you might have to agree to conditions like:

- living at a particular address
- not contacting certain people
- giving your passport to the police so you can't leave the UK
- reporting to a police station at agreed times, e.g. once a week

If you don't stick to these conditions you can be arrested again and be taken to prison to wait for your court hearing.

When you attend your hearing at a magistrates' court or a 'virtual court' - video conferencing in court - you might be given bail again until your trial begins.

Reasons you may not be given bail

You're unlikely to be given bail if:

- you are charged with a serious offence, e.g. armed robbery
- you've been convicted of a serious crime in the past
- you've been given bail in the past and not stuck to the terms
- the police think you may not turn up for your hearing
- the police think you might commit a crime while you're on bail

3. Remand

If the court decides to put you on remand it means you will go to prison until your hearing at a magistrates' court.

If you are under 18 you will be taken to a secure centre for young people, not an adult prison.

You will probably be put on remand if:

- you have been charged with a serious crime, e.g. armed robbery
- you have been convicted of a serious crime in the past
- the police think you may not go to your court hearing
- the police think you may commit another crime while on bail
- you have been given bail before and not stuck to the terms

When you attend your hearing at a magistrates' court, you might be put on remand again until your trial begins, even if you were previously given bail.

Exercises

I. Match the definitions with the explanations:

1. To be released on bail	A. a proceeding where evidence is taken in court
2. a charge sheet	B. to come to court to testify
3. a magistrates' court	C. the actual imprisonment
4. to be charged with	D. a felony or crime
5. a 'virtual court'	E. to appear at a police station at agreed times
6. to stick to terms	F. to do and be responsible for a serious offence
7. armed robbery	G. a description of an offence in accusation
8. to be put on remand	H. the first hearing takes place there
9. to commit a crime	I. a document containing details of the crime
10. to report to a police station	J. you can go home until court hearing
11. to be kept in police custody	K. a video conference in court
12. hearing held in a local authority accommodation	L. a crime committed by a defendant using a dangerous weapon
13. a serious offence	M. to meet conditions
14. a hearing	N. to be sent to prison
15. to turn up for hearing	O. hearing for people under 17
16. a charge	P. to be told what you are accused of

II. Translate in to English expressions or words in brackets:

- When an offender is arrested, he is (otrzymuje akt oskarżenia)
- You can be (zwolniony za kaucją)
- When you appear in court, you might be (skierowany do więzienia) before a trial.
- People given bail must (dotrzymać określonych warunków)
- That offender (popelnił) several crimes.
- Tom (został oskarżony o) murder.
- When a person uses a weapon and robs someone, it is called (zbrojny napad)
- When you are given bail, you must (stawić się) for hearing.
- A charge sheet (podaje) details of the crime.
- In case of an offender under 18, hearing will take place in (bezpiecznym ośrodku)
- The first hearing will be held in (sądzie pierwszej instancji)
- The police decided to (zatrzymać w areszcie policyjnym) the robber
- A condition of bail may be (zgłaszanie się na policję) on given days.
- (Przesłuchanie) can be held at a court using video technology is called

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