

# Role of Support Person

P692



**NSW Police**

It is important you understand your role as a “support person”. The law allows a “vulnerable person” to have a “support person” with them to provide assistance during any investigative procedure in which they are involved. For example, the person may be timid, immature, appear to be out of their depth, or be inexperienced in legal matters and, therefore, need your advice. Your presence can also act as a check on possible unfair treatment of the person. You may intervene if any situation of apparent unfairness arises or if it appears the person needs help in understanding their rights.

The law requires that I inform you that as a support person you are not restricted to acting merely as an observer at the interview and you may, among other things:

- assist and support the person being interviewed, and
- observe whether or not the interview is being conducted properly and fairly, and
- identify communication problems with the person being interviewed.

You may not, however, unreasonably interfere with the interview. If you do, you may be excluded from the interview, but, in this situation the person is entitled to have another support person present.

At the end of an interview at which you are present you will be given an opportunity to read and sign the interview record.

As the custody manager, I am also obliged to give you a copy of a summary of Part 9 of the *Law Enforcement (Powers & Responsibilities) Act 2002* (LEPRA). This summary is titled “Caution and Summary of Part 9 of LEPRA”. The form will also be read out and explained to you. The form details the rights of the person in custody. If you do not understand any part of it, or if you have any questions, please ask me and I will assist you where possible. Please note, however, that I cannot take over the role of a legal representative.

## Acknowledgement

Name of Vulnerable Person .....

At ..... am/pm on the ..... I informed the support person of the information contained in this form and gave him/her a copy of this form and a copy of the form entitled “Caution and Summary Of Part 9 of LEPRA”.

Signature of custody manager .....

Name ..... Rank .....

Time and date .....

- 1) I acknowledge having been informed of the information contained in this form, and having received a copy of this form and a copy of the form titled “Caution and Summary of Part 9 of LEPRA”.
- 2) I understand the information contained in the form titled “Caution and Summary of Part 9 of LEPRA”

Name of support person .....

\*Signature of support person .....

Time and date .....

(\* Note: there is no obligation on the support person to sign this acknowledgement)