

Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Act 2019

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Background to the Act

- Age of Prosecution
- Advisory Group established in 2015 with key representatives from Scotland's care and justice sector.
- This Advisory Group provided key recommendations to the Scottish Government on how to meaningfully remove children under 12 years of age from criminal processes and procedures.

Major changes under the Act

Police Powers

- Under 12 cannot be charged or arrested
- New procedures for police in relation to interviews, search of a child, taking of relevant physical data or samples
- Place of safety

Disclosure

- No criminal record
- Independent review of other relevant information

Victims

- Right to information



Workshop examples:

- 1) Child (aged 10) involved in house-breaking, located by police officers at the scene.
- 2) Child (aged 9) involved in shoplifting
- 3) Child (aged 11) involved in throwing stones from a bridge over a motorway, which resulted in death of a driver.

Implementation: our plan

**Victims
Information**

Police Powers

Disclosure

**Guidance for
Professionals**



Thank you!