

# Victims' Code of Practice

## Right 2: Intermediaries

### A registered intermediary:

- ◆ is a communication specialist
- ◆ can be used to help vulnerable victims and witnesses with communication difficulties
- ◆ can be used when a victim or witness is likely to misunderstand or be misunderstood
- ◆ is often the difference between a witness being able to give evidence or not



Consider whether the quality of a victim's evidence is likely to be diminished by limitations to expressive and receptive communication?

Expressive communication refers to verbal expression. Consider whether this is:

- ◆ limited by age
- ◆ affected by disorder
- ◆ affected by disability
- ◆ chronologically disorganised
- ◆ limited by vocabulary

Receptive communication refers to language comprehension. Consider whether this is:

- ◆ limited by age
- ◆ affected by disorder
- ◆ affected by disability
- ◆ limited by vocabulary
- ◆ limited by understanding

If you believe that the quality of a victim's evidence may be adversely affected by a vulnerability, you must consider whether they are eligible for support from a registered intermediary. Consider this as part of the initial needs assessment. Consider eligibility for special measures.

Find out more at [college.police.uk/guidance/victims-code](https://college.police.uk/guidance/victims-code)