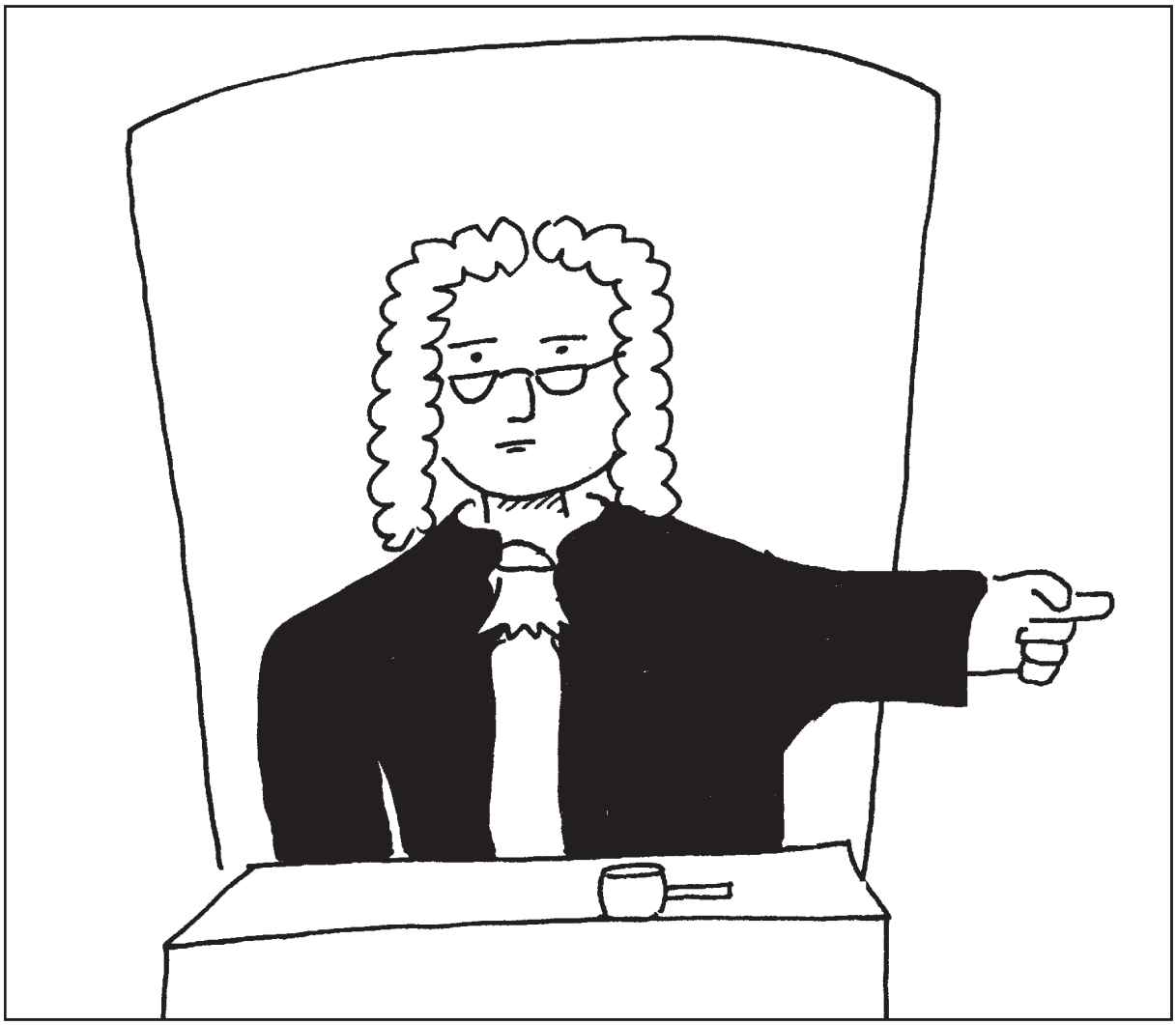
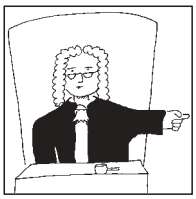
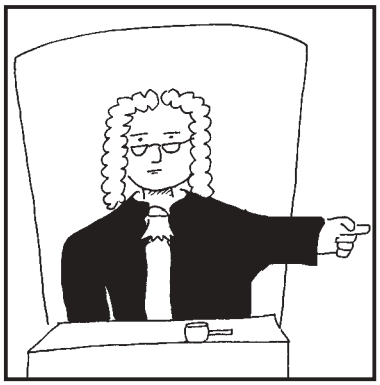


The law

The law



Here you can find out about:



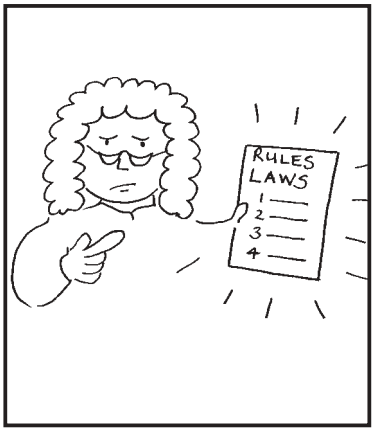
The law

The Disability Discrimination Act 1995

Human Rights Act 1998

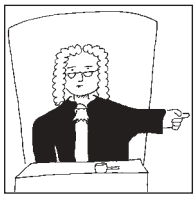
Crime and Disorder Act 1998

The Protection from Harassment Act 1997



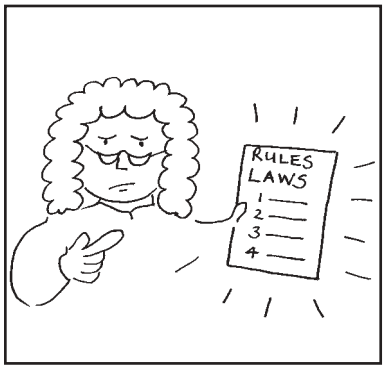
The Public Order Act 1986

Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999



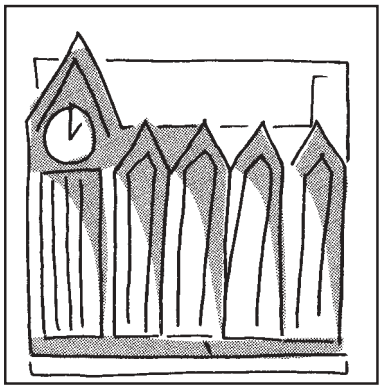
The law

You have a right to use the law



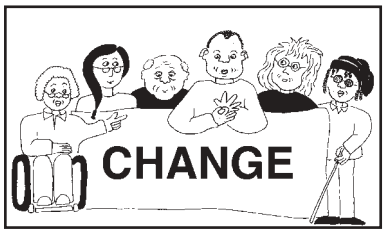
The law is a set of rules that everyone in the country has to follow.

For example, it is against the law if someone hits you or steals things that belong to you.

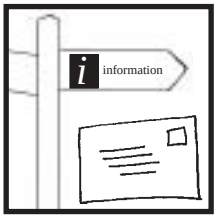


The Government decides what the laws should be. Sometimes the Government asks people their advice about the laws. You can tell your local MP what you think about the law, and if you think it protects your rights.

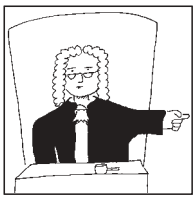
For more information about this, you can contact:
National People First
or
CHANGE



Go to **Find Out More**



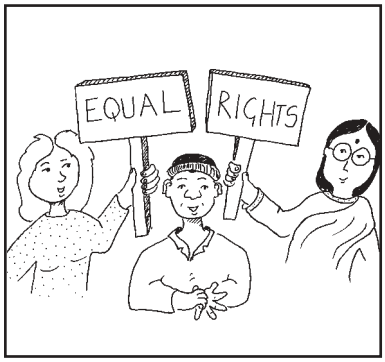
The law



Here are some laws that protect your rights:

The Disability Discrimination Act 1995

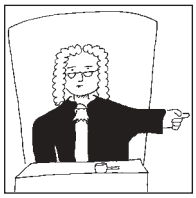
This law is often called the DDA.



What is discrimination?

Discrimination is when people treat you badly or unfairly because they think you are different to them.

This law wants to make sure that disabled people can get their rights. It wants to stop discrimination and make sure that services can be used by all people. Some discrimination is against the law.



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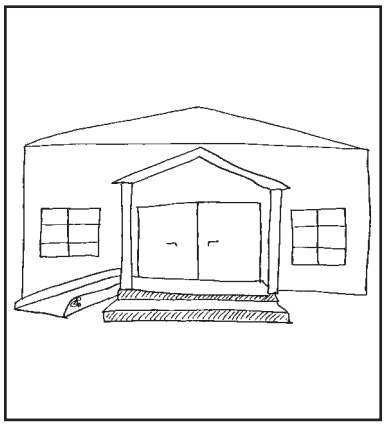
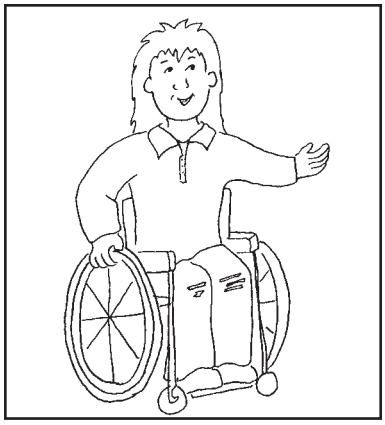


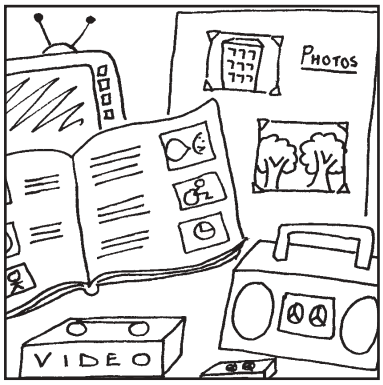
For example:

If a new building has been built with steps, the law says people who use wheelchairs must have a way into the building. The building must be accessible.



If you are in a pub and the landlord tells you to leave for no reason, it may be discrimination.

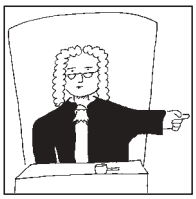
If you go for a job and do not get it, it is your right to ask why. If there is no reason it might be discrimination.



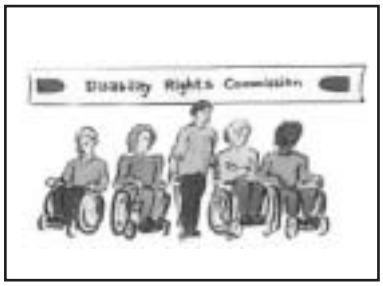
Services must make sure they are easy for disabled people to use.

They must also make sure that everyone can understand information about the service.

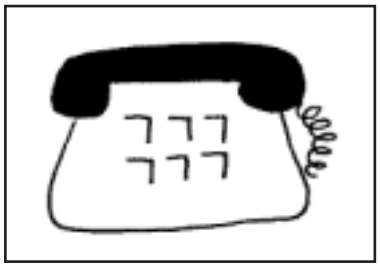
The law



The Disability Rights Commission (DRC)

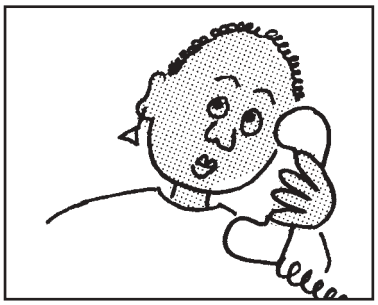


The Disability Rights Commission was set up to stop discrimination and to protect the rights of disabled people.

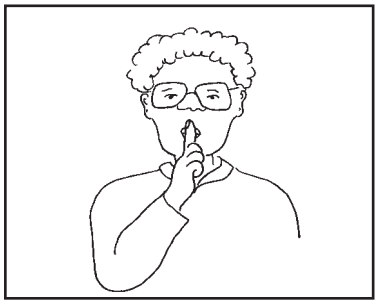


Disability Rights Commission (DRC) Telephone Helpline

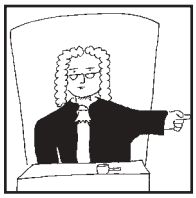
You can get information, advice and help about discrimination by telephone.



If you call you will hear a man talking on a recorded message. He says that your call will be recorded and ask if you want to know about your rights under the **Data Protection Act 1998.**
This Act is about confidentiality and what other people can do with information about you.



It is up to you what you tell people.
It is your right to know what is written down about you and who they will talk to about what you say.

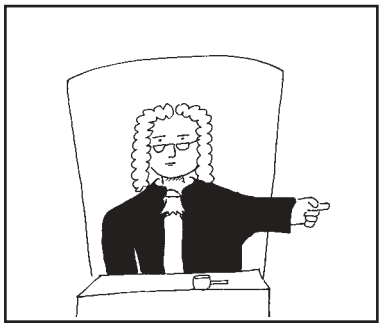


The law

The person who answers the phone will listen to you. If you want to find out more about the Disability Discrimination Act they can send you information leaflets, tapes and a video about discrimination.

If you think you have been treated unfairly or badly because of your disability you can tell them.

They may ask you if you want to talk to an adviser.
An adviser will call you back. They can tell you about your rights and the Disability Discrimination Act.



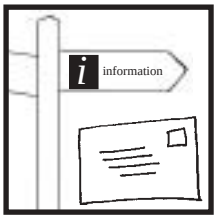
The adviser will talk with you and tell you if the law has been broken. They will try to help you sort it out and stop it happening again.

They can help you to decide what you want to do about it.

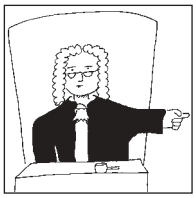
What you say is confidential

You do not have to pay for this service.

Go to **Find Out More**



The law



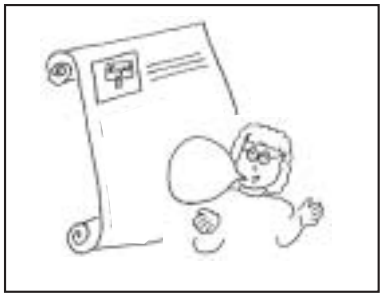
Human Rights Act 1998

This law says every person has rights. These rights are in a list and are called Articles. The Articles have a number.

This is what some of the Articles say:

Article 3

You have a right not to be treated badly or hurt.

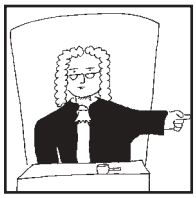


Article 6

You have a right to a fair hearing. This could help you speak up in court.

Article 8

You have a right to be safe at home and to be yourself. You have a right to make choices about your life, without people telling you what to do. You have a right to keep your information private and to see what is written down about you.



The law

Article 10
You have a right to say what you want, to expect people to listen to you and speak out if something is wrong.
You must also respect other people.

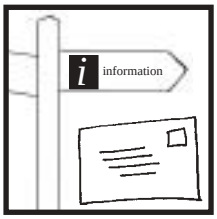
Article 14
Discrimination is wrong. It is wrong for anyone to treat you badly just because they think you are different.

These are just some of your rights.

PeopleFIRST
"a voice for people with learning difficulties"

To find out more about the Human Rights Act contact Liberty or National People First.

Go to **Find Out More**



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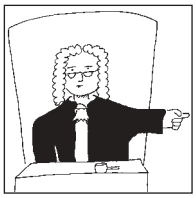
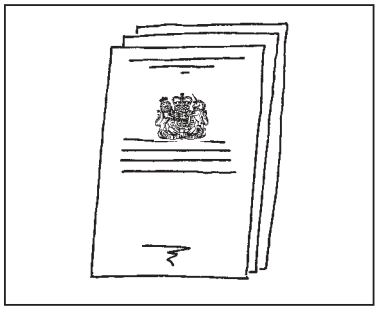


Crime and Disorder Act 1998

This Act says that if someone is doing things to you which make you feel afraid, frightened, or upset you can ask the council or police to help.They can ask the court to order the person to stop. This is called an Anti-Social Behaviour Order. (ASBO)

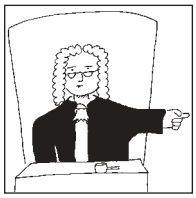


Protection from Harassment Act 1997

This Act says it is against the law to keep doing something that makes someone feel alarmed, distressed or fear violence. This is harassment.

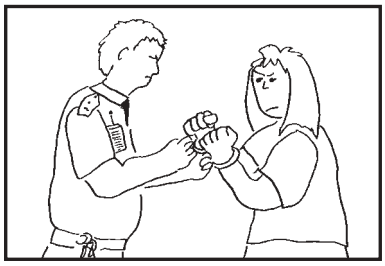
Harassment includes things like calling you names, sending letters, or making lots of phone calls that upset you, annoy you and are a nuisance to you.

You may have a neighbour or someone else who keeps calling you names or often threatens to hurt you or damage your house or things.

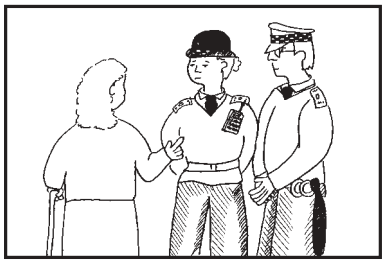


The law

If this has happened more than once, the law can help you. You can ask the police for help.



People can be arrested for harassment. You can also ask a solicitor to help you apply for a court hearing, if you don't want the police to help.



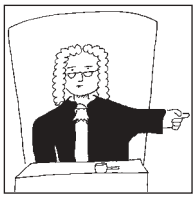
You can choose what you would like to do about the problem, but it is best to tell someone about it straight away.

Bullying and Harassment Reporting Form

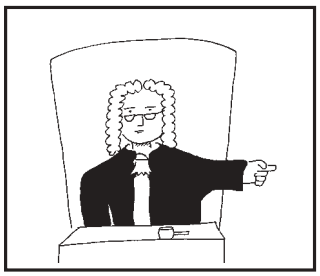
You can fill in the **Bullying and Harassment Reporting Form**.

You can ask someone to help you.

The law



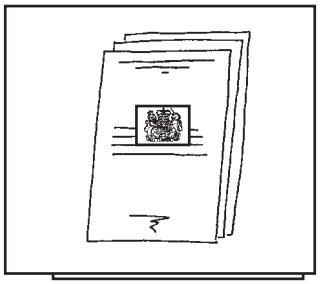
If you tell the police they will make a record and give you a reference number. They will speak to the other person and warn them to stop causing problems.



You might have to go to court to give evidence or tell the court about what has happened to you. Victim Support has a Witness Service to help you at court.

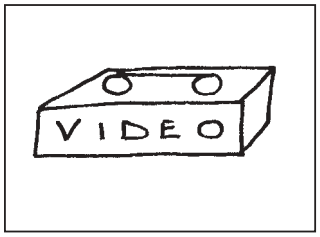
Public Order Act 1986

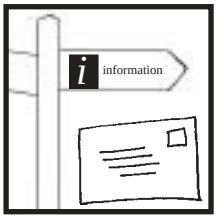
This act says it is against the law to do something that makes someone feel alarmed or distressed or cause harassment



Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999

This act is to make it easy for witnesses to say what has happened and to give their best evidence in court.



One way to make this easy is to use a video to record what someone wants to say, if they find it hard to go in to court.

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