

APPROPRIATE ADULT SCHEME FOR YOUNG SUSPECTS (AAYS)

The Appropriate Adult Scheme for Young Suspects (AAYS) trains and matches volunteers to support young suspects* in law enforcement interviews. These trained volunteers are referred to as Appropriate Adults (AAs).

The AAs are trained to:

- (i) look out for signs of distress in the young suspect,
- (ii) aid communication between the young suspect and the investigation officer,
- (iii) provide emotional support when necessary.

*Young suspects are below 16 years old

AAYS Volunteers Criteria

Anyone above the age of 21 years old with a passion of serving youth can sign up to be a volunteer, subjected to further screening.

Activations can take place at any time of the day and trained AAs can choose to take on the activation requests at one's convenience.

Lawyers and ex-SPF/CNB officers are welcomed to register as AA volunteers. To prevent conflict of interest, lawyers responding to the activation are required to sign an undertaking form to ascertain that they will not be assisting in any cases and/or the firm that they worked for, would not be subsequently involved as defence counsel for the subject.

Roles of an AA

The role of the AA volunteer is to serve as a bridge between the Investigation Officer (IO) and the young suspect to enable both parties to communicate more effectively during the police interview.

The AA will observe the young suspect and note any emotional and mental health concerns, and provide support to ensure the well-being of the young suspect.

Volunteering Commitment

- (i) Attend compulsory briefing session
- (ii) Attend compulsory training session
- (iii) Be activated an average of 4 times a year (Transport allowance will be provided)

If you are interested in registering as an AAYS volunteer, or have enquiries, please contact us at aays@childrensociety.org.sg