

## **APPROPRIATE ADULT SCHEME FOR YOUNG SUSPECTS (AAYS)**

The Appropriate Adult scheme for Young Suspects (AAYS) supports young suspects (from 10 to under 18 years of age) during their interviews with the law enforcement agencies. Under the scheme, Appropriate Adults (AA) will be activated to be a neutral adult, to provide emotional support to young suspects, and facilitate communication between the Investigation Officers (IOs) and young suspects during the interviews.

As the service provider, Singapore Children's Society trains staff members and volunteers (trained volunteers are referred to as Appropriate Adults (AAs) and matches them to support young suspects who need to attend law enforcement interviews.

### **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 screening and selection process.

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 and/or their firm will not be involved as defence counsel for the young suspect whom they have supported in their capacity as an AA.

### **Roles of an AA**

- (i) A neutral party.
- (ii) Look out for signs of distress and provide emotional support to young suspect when necessary.
- (iii) Aid communication between the Investigation Officer (IO) and the young suspect to enable both parties to communicate effectively during the police interview.

### **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 to find out more, please contact us at [aays@childrensociety.org.sg](mailto:aays@childrensociety.org.sg).