



# How we're tackling disability hate crime

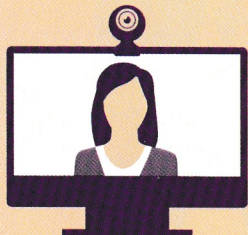
Our **legal guidance** on disability hate crime explains how we prosecute these offences to make sure we present the strongest possible case in court.

Our staff complete **specialist training** on disability hate crime to make sure they understand all aspects of the law and the context of their decision making.



We **work with organisations who support victims of disability hate crime** to better understand the impact of these crimes and what more we can do to bring offenders to justice.

We recognise how quickly language changes. We've worked with disability charities to develop **guidance for our prosecutors** to improve our understanding of offensive language to ensure we fully understand the evidence.



If a victim or witness has a disability which would impact their ability to give evidence in court, we ask the court for **special measures**. These can include giving evidence behind a screen or through a video link.

Turn over for an example of how we've been prosecuting these crimes



# Case study: Prosecuting disability hate crime

The offender used a false name to befriend a disabled man with limited mobility.

The victim trusted the offender to get money from the cash machine so gave him his bank card and PIN. He soon noticed that money was missing from his account.

We prosecuted the offender for fraud and he pleaded guilty. We presented evidence that he was motivated to commit this crime because the victim was disabled – this makes it a hate crime. We asked the court to increase the sentence because of this.

He was sentenced to 26 weeks imprisonment, suspended for 24 months, a community order and a four-month curfew monitored electronically between 7pm and 7am. He was also made to pay back the money he stole and an additional £620 in costs.

## What does the law say?

If someone commits a crime against you because you have a disability – or because they think you have a disability – that is a hate crime. The law defines disability as any physical or mental impairment, including learning disabilities.

