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The issues I wanted to raise were around people who are blind or vision impaired and how they access the criminal justice system.

The First issue is about accessing information in preferred suitable accessible alternative formats in a timely manner.  While the various governement agencies involved in the criminal justice system are required under their Disability Access and Inclusion Plans to provide information in accessible formats, it depends on how and why you have become involved with the criminal justice system.

Under some circumstances you (or a person who is blind or vision impaired) may have become involved in the criminal justice system, not of your own choice, or the reason you (or a person who is blind or vision impaired) have become involved doesn't allow for accessible information in a timely manner.  You might be signing a witness statement or or being processed into the criminal justice system, due to crimes committed by you or others and the varous paperwork involved with that process is not or will not be at that time in a accessible format.

Then as you proceed through the criminal justice process, with Legal Aid or Lawyers or dealing with government agencies, some of these processes are not fully accessible, but you are required to agree and sign documents, without knowing what the documents might say.

Once a person who is blind is in the prision system, they have little to no access to accesible information and they don't have access to even Diasy (Talking) Format books or other recreational or rehabilitation information in an accessible format.

The Second issue I wanted to raise, was as a person who is blind or vison impaired, not being considered a reliable witness to crimes, due to the vision impairment.  The police and or lawyers not believing you are able to identify a criminal or be able to describe criminal events or be able to assist police with their enquiries.  Some police have told people who are blind or vison impaired, that a case becomes a "he said / she said" situation, that unless the alleged criminal person actually "gives themself up" and admits to doing the crime, then the person who is blind or vision impaired may be considered as telling or not telling the truth about the incident.   The person who is blind is not considered to be a reliable witness as they can not see or see enough to identify the person who may have done the crime.

I recently read on Facebook, an account of a person, who is blind, who witnessed some family domestic volience, not to themselves, but another family member and the when the police were taking the statements about the incident, the police asked the same questions to the various family members but for the person who was blind, the police structured the same questions but focussed on what the person heard, what sounds could they hear, who said what, and other questions in a tactile audible manner.  This is an example of how it can be done well.  The person was very pleased that the police took the person's statement seriously and without having to be asked to take into account the person's disability.