



Could it be FASD?



What Police Need to Know

What we see	What we think	What's Really Going On
NONCOMPLIANCE (e.g. Not obeying rules, trying to make me mad)	Resistant and controlling. Attention seeking. Stubborn. Manipulative.	Difficulty translating verbal directions into actions. Doesn't understand. Slow cognitive pace. Unable to remember, over-stimulated. Anxiety and fear.
REPEATEDLY MAKING THE SAME MISTAKES (e.g. repeat offender)	Doing it on purpose. Manipulative. Impulsive.	Cannot link cause to effect. Cannot see similarities. Difficulty generalising from one event to another. Has difficulty remembering.
OFTEN LATE	Lazy, slow. Poor parenting. Doing it on purpose.	Cannot understand the abstract concept of time. Tries hard, exhausted or can't start, needs assistance getting organised and remembering.
NOT SITTING STILL	Seeking attention. Bothering others/Resisting. Doing it on purpose.	Neurologically based need to move while learning. Sensory overload. Doesn't understand, has difficulty in paying attention.
POOR SOCIAL JUDGEMENT	Takes the blame. Poor parenting. Abused child. Doing it on purpose. Uncaring. Untruthful.	Easily lead by others. Not able to interpret social cues or know what to do in social settings. Impulsive - unable to perceive consequences of their actions. Fills in the blanks—confabulation. An adult with FASD may be articulate but not have age appropriate functional capacities.
OVERLY PHYSICAL	Uncomfortable body language. Inappropriate sexual behaviour.	Does not understand social cues regarding boundaries. Hyper - or Hypo-sensitive to touch (feels things too much or not enough).

Based on an original pamphlet produced by : Police Service, Edmonton



FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER

FASD

WHAT IS

FASD

FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER

What Police Need to Know!

A study conducted in British Columbia by Conry, Fast & Looock (1997) concluded that of the 287 youth remanded in custody 23.3% were FASD affected.

There are no published studies on the overall prevalence of FASD affected individuals within the criminal justice system in New Zealand. It is strongly suspected that FASD affected individuals are over-represented.

Have you ever apprehended a person for shoplifting or burglary because they were nearby consuming or selling what they had just stolen? Did they appear unaware of the consequences of their actions or not thinking their action was a serious problem? **Have they done** similar things again and again?

Have you ever taken a statement from a victim or a witness that was agreeing to everything no matter what the implications?

Could one of these offenders, victims or **witnesses be affected by** Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder?

Had you known about or suspected FASD would your investigation have gone differently?

FASD?

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder is a medical term used to describe a cluster of neuro-disabilities caused by alcohol exposure before birth. FASD is a spectrum disorder meaning **every person affected with FASD is unique**. A few may have physical signs but **all** will have severe, pervasive and lifelong functional and communication disabilities.

NO AMOUNT OF ALCOHOL DURING PREGNANCY IS SAFE.
FASD is preventable, but there is no cure.

For more information about FASD go to www.fan.org.nz or www.fasd-can.org.nz

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

If you are dealing with an individual who you suspect may be affected **by** FASD, **treat** them the same as you would when dealing with someone much younger or brain-injured.

- Ask if they have an **Advocate or a Guardian** before questioning them. FASD individuals may have trouble understanding their rights or the concept of waving their rights.
- Do not ask leading questions or coach the person. People affected by FASD are usually eager to please and may agree to anything, appropriate or not.
- If possible, **videotape** interviews and statements.
- Indicate in the 'RECOMMENDATIONS' to the crown that you have reason to suspect the individual (accused, witness or victim) **may be affected by** FASD.
- If possible, enlist help when preparing an interview or if you would like additional information for your investigation, you can contact: Christine Rogan, Fetal Alcohol Network NZ Coordinator, Alcohol Healthwatch Trust, Ph: (09) 520 7037 or email fannz@ahw.org.nz.

For caregiver support go to www.fasd-can.org.nz