

What information is on the child protection register?

Your child's legal name, the name people call them, their date of birth and address. The register also shows what the concerns about your child are.

What is a child protection plan?

When a decision is made at a child protection case conference to put a child's name on the child protection register, parents and carers, the child's social worker and other professionals who have contact with your child and family will create a child protection plan.

All children on the child protection register will have a child protection plan which lets agencies who know your child and family share information and work together to support you and your child, and to reduce the risk of your child being harmed. The detail of the plan is agreed at a meeting called a child protection planning meeting, which is held within 10 working days of the child protection case conference.

How long will the registration go on?

The first child protection review conference will be held three months after the original conference. Further reviews are held at least every six months. The review child protection case conference will discuss:

- the progress made by everyone involved (including you) in carrying out the tasks agreed in the child protection plan; and
- if the situation has improved enough for your child's name to be taken off the child protection register.

If your child's name stays on the register, you will get a date for another review conference.

Criminal injuries compensation

Children who have been abused may be able to make a claim for criminal injuries compensation. This may come up at the case conference.

This leaflet was given to you by:

Name:

Agency:

.....

Phone number:

If this person is not available, please ask to speak to the following manager.

Name:

Agency:

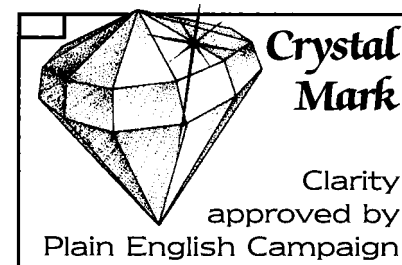
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Phone number:

Out-of-office hours - If you need to speak to someone urgently, please phone 01382 436430.

Remember, if there is anything you do not understand about child protection meetings or the child protection register, please ask your child's social worker or other workers involved with your child and family who will try to answer your questions.

Your views and opinions matter. It is your child the conference will discuss, and you have a responsibility and a right to be involved.



You can get this leaflet in large print, in Braille or on cassette by contacting us on 01307 474151. We can provide this information in other languages if you need it.

Information for parents and carers

About child protection meetings and the child protection register



Introduction

Your child's safety and wellbeing will be discussed at a meeting called a child protection case conference. This usually takes place after a child protection investigation where the information collected suggests that your child may be at risk of harm, and may need to go on the child protection register. This leaflet will help answer any questions you may have about child protection meetings and the child protection register.

We know that a case conference can be worrying for parents. The aim of it is to act in the best interests of your child, and this is best achieved by the people who know your child working together.

What is a child protection case conference?

A child protection case conference is:

- a meeting arranged by the Social Work Department after a child protection investigation;
- attended by people from agencies who know your child and family, for example, the health visitor, school nurse, school doctor, your own family's doctor, nursery or school teacher, police officer and a social worker; and
- led by a senior member of the Social Work Department.

What is the aim of the case conference?

Case conferences are arranged in line with government guidelines that say all agencies concerned about protecting children must meet to discuss their concerns, and make plans to protect children.

A child protection case conference cannot make legal decisions. If a legal decision is needed, the conference may recommend referring your child to the Reporter to the Children's Hearing, who decides if a children's hearing is needed.

The aim of the conference is to:

- share information with people who need to know about any concerns about your child;
- make sure that everyone understands how things are for you and your child (including looking at strengths as well as weaknesses, the needs of your child and any risks there may be for your child);
- decide if your child is at risk of future harm, and if so, how best to protect them;
- decide if your child's name should be on the child protection register;
- decide whether to refer your child to the reporter to the Children's Hearing for Angus;
- decide whether to apply to the Sheriff Court for emergency protection measures; and
- make recommendations about the type of support and protection your child and family may need. We will agree this in detail at another meeting called a child protection planning meeting, usually held within 10 working days of the conference.

What happens to the information shared at the conference?

The people who go to the conference will keep information about you and your family confidential unless they need to share information to protect your child. Any information shared could be used, for example, for a referral to the Reporter to the Children's Hearing for Angus or in criminal proceedings.

A written report of the conference will be produced by the Social Work Department and sent to you and everyone invited to the conference.

Can I go to the child protection case conference?

Usually, yes.

Parents and carers are the most important people in their children's lives and you will usually be invited by the social worker to attend. You will be able to give helpful information about your child and family, correct any information which you think is wrong, and hear what others have to say. There may be part of the conference which you will not be allowed to go to. This would only be to let staff from the agencies involved talk about things they may not be able to share with you, for example, private information about someone else.

Can I bring someone with me?

Yes. As long as you try to let the social worker know before the conference. If a relative, friend or legal representative comes with you, they can speak for you. The chairperson of the conference will decide whether the person you want to bring can be involved in the conference.

Will my child be at the meeting?

Only children who are old enough to understand what is happening and will not be upset by the meeting will be able to go. Your child's social worker can help you and your child decide whether your child should go. Your child's social worker or any other worker who

knows your child can say what your child thinks about their situation at the conference.

What if I do not go?

We understand that you may find it difficult to come to a conference and may not want to be there. If you do not go, the chairperson will want to be sure that the conference takes account of your feelings, views and wishes. You can write something for the conference or you can ask your social worker to write it for you and present it at the conference. At least one person attending the conference will see you as soon as possible afterwards to tell you what the decisions are. You will also be sent a letter by the Social Work Department telling you the decisions of the conference.

What is the child protection register?

Every area in Scotland has a child protection register, which is a list, (kept by the Social Work Department), of children who may be at risk of future harm. A child's name may be put on the register under one or more of the following categories.

- Physical abuse
- Physical neglect
- Sexual abuse
- Failure to thrive (the child is not growing and developing as they should)
- Emotional abuse

The category will depend on the circumstances for your child and family.

The register is highly confidential and only staff from Social Work, the police, Education and Health can get information from it.