

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 that 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.

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:

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.

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

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This and further information
leaflets available at:
www.cne-siar.gov.uk/childProtectionCommittee

Information
for Parents and
Carers

About Child
Protection
Meetings and
the Child
Protection
Register



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Introduction

Your child's safety and well-being 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 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, 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 protection 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 concerns regarding your child;
- make sure that every one 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 to 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 placed on the child protection Register;
- decide whether to refer your child to the Reporter to the Children's Hearing;
- 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 on an Inter-agency care plan immediately following 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 or in criminal proceedings.

A written minute of the conference recording the key points, decisions and recommendations 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, and hear what others have to say. There may be part of the conference, which you will not be allowed to attend. 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 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?

Children, where relevant and appropriate and in their best interests, should also attend initial and review case conferences, and are also entitled to representation.

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.

Where parents have not been present during the decision making and recommendation part of the meeting, the Social Worker must inform the parents/carers immediately following the case conference.

Parents/carers will be informed in writing by the Team Leader of the decisions and recommendation of the case conference within five working days and will receive a written minute of the conference. Fathers who have no parental responsibilities/rights will, depending on circumstances, be informed of the outcome of a case 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. The information is only provided across agencies on a need to know basis.