

Information for Parents & Carers

Child Protection Investigations



ChildProtection
Perth & Kinross



This leaflet is meant for families who have become involved in child protection investigations to help them to understand:

- *why people are concerned;*
 - *what is likely to happen during the investigation;*
 - *what will happen after the investigation: and*
 - *where families can get help.*
-

Why are people concerned about your child?

There may be concerns about your child for a variety of reasons, for example, that they have experienced harm, or are at risk of harm. Children can suffer, or be placed at risk of, many different forms of harm.

There may also be concerns because your child is, or may be, living with or in contact with a person who is a risk to children.

What will happen during the investigation?

Social Workers and the Police have a legal responsibility to

investigate any concerns which suggest your child, or any other child, has been harmed or is at risk of harm.

A Social Worker and/or a Police Officer will contact you to discuss the concerns for your child and to make sure that your child is safe and being looked after properly.

At all times the welfare of your child is the first priority. Usually the Social Worker or Police Officer will want to do the following:

- *Speak to your child. Sometimes it may be necessary to do this away from home. Where possible they will ask you to be there and they will ensure your child is safely looked after at all times.*

- *Speak to you.*
- *Speak to any other relevant person, for example, other family members, your child's teacher, a health visitor or family doctor.*
- *Ask for more information, for example, checking the conditions children are living in.*
- *Arrange for a medical examination if necessary.*

Police Officers may want to interview anyone suspected of harming the child.

Depending on the circumstances, your child's age and how well they understand, the Social Worker or Police Officer may ask your child to agree to take part in an interview or medical examination. You will usually be asked for your consent for this. If you refuse to agree the Social Worker or Police Officer may consider emergency legal measures to protect your child's welfare.

Where possible you will be kept up to date with the investigation. If you need

advice or support, this can be arranged.

If you feel you have not been treated fairly by any of the workers involved, you will be advised of your rights and be given information by them about who you should contact.

What will happen after the investigation?

The Social Worker and Police Officer will collect information about your child's circumstances and assess whether your child is at risk or not. Depending on what they find out, one or more of the following may happen:

- *They will take no further action.*
- *They will offer support/ advice/guidance to you and your child.*
- *A Child Protection Case Conference will be arranged to decide what child protection measures are necessary.*
- *They may ask the person who is a risk to your child to move out of the family home.*

In most cases children are able to stay at home. Children only need to be taken away from home if the information suggests that there is an immediate danger to the child and they cannot be protected in the home.

Medical Examinations

In some cases, your child may need a medical examination. This is carried out by either your child's own doctor, a paediatrician, or a specialist doctor. The main reasons for the examination are to:

- *check the health and welfare of your child;*
- *confirm whether they have been injured.*

After the medical, the results will be discussed with you and your child by the doctor, the Social Worker or Police Officer.

Where to Get Advice

If you need legal advice on your and your child's rights in relation to the investigation you can contact:

- *A Solicitor (Legal Aid may be available)*
- *Citizen's Advice Bureau*

If there is anything that you do not understand, please ask the workers involved. If they cannot answer your questions they will try to find the right person to help you.

If you or someone you know would like a copy of this document in another language or format, (on occasion only, a summary of the document will be provided in translation), this can be arranged by contacting the Communications Manager on 01738 476873.



Council Text Phone Number 01738 442573

All Council Services can offer a telephone translation facility