

Information and Advice Leaflet for
Children and Young People

A Guide to Child Protection Case Conferences in Perth and Kinross



ChildProtection
Perth & Kinross



see beyond

**Getting it Right
in Perth and Kinross**

Helping children be the best they can be





What is a Child Protection Case Conference?

A Child Protection Case Conference is a meeting that is all about you and keeping you safe. Your Social Worker will explain the reasons why a Conference has been arranged for you so that you understand why it is taking place.

Who will be there?

As well as you, someone you choose to support you and your parents/carers, there will be a mix of people you will know and people that you don't know. Your Social Worker, Headteacher or Guidance Teacher and School Nurse should all be there. A special Police Officer is invited to all Conferences and will come in ordinary clothes, not a uniform.

Each Conference is led by a Chairperson. She or he makes sure everyone gets a chance to speak. A Minute Taker is also at each Conference. She or he types notes during the meeting of what is being talked about. Other people who work with you or your parents/carers may also be asked to come along. Your Social Worker can tell you exactly who will be there. Please tell your Social Worker if there is anyone that you feel worried or scared about seeing at the Conference. It is important that you feel safe.

Where will the Conference take place?

The Conference will usually take place in a meeting room in a Social Work Office, School or Health Centre. Your Social Worker will tell you where the Conference will take place and can take you to see the room before it takes place if you would like to do this. This may make you feel a bit more comfortable on the day of the Conference.





Do I have to go to the Conference?

No. You don't have to go to the Conference if you don't want to or you feel it would be too upsetting for you. If it is right for you to go, your Social Worker may encourage you to attend the Conference to share your views and hear what is being said. There are different ways to take part at the Conference - perhaps you would just like to come along to the beginning or end of the Conference? Your Social Worker can help you decide how you can be part of the Conference.

Am I allowed to bring someone with me to the Conference?

If you decide to come along, it's really good to bring someone with you that you trust and will help you have your say. You can choose someone yourself or your Social Worker can arrange for you to be supported by an Advocacy Worker or a Children's Rights Officer at the Conference. These workers will help you say what you want to say, or say it for you if you are finding it too hard. Try to spend some time with your support person before the Conference takes place, talking about how you feel. It can be good to agree with your support person how you will let them know if you want to say something, or you are feeling upset and need a break.

What if I don't want to go to the Conference?

It is very important that the Conference knows what you think is happening in your life. Your Social Worker will speak with you about what you think and how to share your views. You might like to write a letter or draw a picture or use an App called '*Mind of My Own*' (MOMO) to let people know what you think. Your Social Worker will help you with this.





What can be decided at a Conference?

The Conference will decide if your name should be placed on the **Child Protection Register**. (This is a list of children and young people who need to have special plans in place to make sure that they are kept safe and protected from harm.) The **Register** is **confidential** which means it is private so only a small group of workers who need to know will know that your name is on the **Register**.

The Chairperson must think about whether a referral should be made to the **Reporter to the Children's Hearing** about you. If this happens, the Chairperson will explain why and will ask your Social Worker to spend time going over this with you.

One of the most important things that a Conference does is to make a **Child Protection Plan** showing what everyone, including your parents or carers, needs to do to make sure that you are cared for and kept safe.

If the Conference decides that your name should not be added to the **Register**, a Plan will still be made to make sure that you and your family get the help and support you need.

What happens if I am not happy with the decision made by the Conference?

Let your Social Worker know what you think and how you feel. Let him/her know that you are not happy about the decision that has been made about you. They can then talk to you about this and make sure that other workers are aware of your views.





What happens after the Conference?

Everyone will work together to make sure that you are safe and have the care and help you need. To make sure that this happens, a **Core Group Meeting** will take place within 10 working days. This is a smaller group of people who will meet regularly with you and your parents or carers to check whether the **Child Protection Plan** is working and make any changes that are needed to your Plan to make sure that you are kept safe and protected. There will be a **Core Group Meeting** every month that your name is on the **Register**.

A **Review Child Protection Case Conference** will be held after 12 weeks to consider if the **Child Protection Plan** is working and whether your name should stay on or could be taken off of the **Register**.

I am still not sure what all of this means. Who can help me to understand?

Please get in touch with your Social Worker/Lead Professional whose details are at the end of this booklet. You can also ask your Social Worker/Lead Professional to put you in touch with other people who can help or you can get in touch with them yourself.





Who else may be able to help me?

- **Perth and Kinross Children and Youth Rights Officer**
Tel 01738 474584 www.pkc.gov.uk/article/17674/Children-and-youth-rights-information
- **Mind of My Own (MOMO) App**
Tel 0330 057 9575 www.mindofmyown.org.uk
- **Childline**
Tel 0800 1111 www.childline.org.uk
- **Scottish Child Law Centre**
Tel 0131 667 6333 www.sclc.org.uk
- **Children and Young Peoples Commissioner Scotland**
Tel 0800 019 1179 www.sccyp.org.uk
- **Young Scot**
Tel 0808 801 0338 www.youngscot.org





Child Protection and Duty Team
(24 hours) **Tel 01738 476768**

Further Help and Support

The name of your social worker/lead professional is:

His/her telephone number is:



www.pkc.gov.uk/childprotection



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 Customer Service Centre on 01738 475000

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الاسم: Customer Service Centre

رقم هاتف للاتصال المباشر: 01738 475000

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نمبر 01738 475000 پر رابطہ کر کے کیا جاسکتا ہے۔

如果你或你的朋友希望得到這文件的其他語言版本或形式

(某些時候，這些文件只會是概要式的翻譯)，請聯絡

Customer Service Centre 01738 475000

來替你安排。

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You can also send us a text message on 07824 498145.

All Council Services can offer a telephone translation facility.