

Going to Court Easy Read Information for Parents/Carers



SCOTTISH
CHILDREN'S REPORTER
ADMINISTRATION



Why do we have to go to court?

At a Hearing the statement of grounds - the reasons for being referred to a Hearing - are read out by the Panel Members. If you and/or your child do not agree or are unable to understand the statement of grounds, the Hearing can't make a final decision on that day.

The Panel Members may ask the Reporter to send the case to the Sheriff court so that a Sheriff can decide if the statement of grounds are correct.



Do we have to attend?

Parents/carers should attend. Children and young people have the right to go, but sometimes the



Sheriff can decide that they don't have to because they are too young or it would upset them.

What does court look like?

Most towns and cities have a court building. They all look very different on the outside, but inside court rooms can look quite similar.



The Reporter can arrange a visit if you would like to see what the court looks like before you have to go.

Who will be there?

Sheriff: is a judge in charge of the court. The Sheriff will make the final decision about what should happen next.



Children's Reporter: in court they try to prove that the statement of grounds are correct.

Lawyer: (sometimes known as a solicitor) is a legally trained person who can offer legal advice and assistance to young people and/or their parents/carers.



Safeguarder: is a person who is appointed to make sure that a young person's interests are looked after. A Safeguarder can be appointed by a Sheriff or by a Children's Hearing.

No members of the public are allowed in the court room.

How long will it take?

The length of time court takes varies. Sometimes the Reporter or the lawyers may need more time and the Sheriff might decide that the case will continue until a later date. You may need to go to court more than once.



What will happen in court?

Sometimes the lawyers and the Reporter speak to each other about the statement of grounds and can agree what is correct or not.

They'll let the Sheriff know and the Sheriff might decide that the case can be sent back to a Children's Hearing.

If the lawyers and Reporter cannot agree what is correct, the Sheriff will have to decide.



What can the Sheriff decide?

The Sheriff could decide that the statement of grounds are correct and send the case back to a Children's Hearing so that the Panel Members can make a final decision.

Or

The Sheriff could decide that the statement of grounds are not correct and that would be the end of the case. It would not go back to a Children's Hearing.

Where can I get more information?

You can get more information about going to court on SCRA's website.

You can also watch a short film about going to court on the website as well.

