

# Children's Hearings

## Going to Court?

This leaflet is to help children and young people in the Children's Hearings System who may have to go to Court.

### Why do children and young people have to go to Court?

Sometimes at a Children's Hearing, the Statement of Grounds (the reasons for a child or young person being referred to a Hearing) are read out by the Panel's Chairperson.

If you and/or your parents/carers do not agree with these reasons, or you are not able to understand them, the Children's Hearing (sometimes called the Children's Panel) may ask the Reporter to arrange for your case to be heard at Court, so that a Sheriff can decide if the reasons are correct.

### Will I have to go?

You have the right to go to Court, and in some cases you have to attend. But in most cases, the Sheriff decides that you do not have to go. If this happens, we will let you know. You can get help if you have to go to Court, and someone will speak on your behalf, for example, a lawyer. If you have to attend Court, you will receive a letter in the post explaining where to go and what happens.

### How long will it take?

The Court will arrange a date within 28 days of your Hearing. The length of time Court takes varies, and you may have to go to court more than once.

For more information about going to Court, please speak to your Reporter

## Who will be there?

The Sheriff, the Children's Reporter, lawyer(s), and sometimes a person called a Safeguarder. Your parents also have a right to attend. If you are unsure who will be there and who the people are, please ask the Reporter or someone to help you.

## What will happen?

The lawyer(s) and the Reporter discuss the Statement of Grounds, and try and reach an agreement about what is correct or not correct.

If the lawyer(s) and the Reporter cannot agree, the Sheriff will have to decide. To allow the Sheriff to make a decision, witnesses may be needed to give evidence.

## What can the Sheriff decide?

If the Sheriff decides that the Statement of Grounds are correct, they will send your case back to a Children's Hearing to decide whether you need a Compulsory Supervision Order.

However, if the Sheriff decides the reasons are not correct, this would be the end of your case.



You can also watch a short film about going to court on SCRA's website



There is also lots more information about Court on our website