

What might happen?

The Panel Members will listen to everyone at the Hearing and they will make the best decision for you. They will tell you what is going to happen and why.

This might mean that there are changes for you at home or at school. You might have to see a social worker who will try and help you and your family.

Your rights . . .

You can bring someone else with you to the Hearing to help you, such as a friend or a relative. They can support you and help you to have your say. You can also ask questions at your Hearing. Sometimes specially trained people are available, like an advocate, a children's rights officer or a legal representative. To find out more, you can talk to your social worker if you have one, or contact the Children's Reporter.

You should tell people at the Hearing if you are not happy with what is happening to you, if you don't agree with what is being said, or if you need someone to support you at the Hearing.

Do you need more help?

You can get more information from the Children's Reporter's website – visit www.scra.gov.uk. There is a special bit for young people. You can also contact the Children's Reporter – their name and contact details will be on the letter which was sent to you.

The Scottish Child Law Centre provides free legal advice to children and young people - contact the under 18s freephone on **0800 328 8970**. You can email enquiries@sclc.org.uk or visit their website at www.sclc.org.uk.

Young Scot also has a free information and enquiries service. You can e-mail them at info@youngscot.org or call the Young Scot InfoLine on freephone **0808 801 0338**.

If you don't understand this leaflet or any of the information which has been sent to you about your Hearing, please get someone to help you.

*produced by the
Scottish Children's Reporter Administration*



SCOTTISH
CHILDREN'S REPORTER
ADMINISTRATION

All about Children's Hearings

This leaflet provides information for young people who are going to a Hearing. It tells you:

Who will be there

What will happen

How you can have your say

Why do I have to go to a Hearing?

You might be asked to go to a Hearing because there is a problem at home or school and you might be unhappy.

You will get a letter to tell you when and where the Hearing is.

Everyone at the Hearing wants to help you and make things better for you.

Where will it be?

Hearings are held in lots of different buildings which are called Hearing Centres. They are usually quite near to where you are living or your school, but you might need to travel to get there.

There is a waiting room and you might want to bring a magazine or book in case you have to wait. Then you will go into the Hearing room, which is a room with a table and chairs.

Do I have to go?

Yes, unless the Reporter tells you that you don't have to.

Remember, you are the most important person at your Hearing. Everyone is there to help you.

Who will be there?

The people who are important in your life. Your family or carers and of course, you.

A Children's Reporter – they organise the Hearing and send you a letter about it. They will come and say hello to you when you arrive. They will be in the Hearing room and will help ensure that your Hearing is fair.

There will be three Panel Members, they are specially trained volunteers, who are there to help you and make a decision about what is best for you.

A social worker will also be there and a teacher from your school might also be there.

You will get asked some questions ...

Do you like where you are staying?

How are you getting on with the people you live with?

How is school?

Do you have any worries or problems?

The Panel Members will ask you these questions to make sure you get the right help.

Having your say ...

Remember, the Hearing is all about you!

You will have the chance to tell Panel Members how you are and what you would like to happen.

You can tell someone how you are feeling, you can also fill out a form which is called All About Me.

It is important the Panel Members hear what you have to say.