

## Your views

The Hearing is all about you and what is best for you. You will have the chance to tell Panel Members how you are, and what you would like to happen both before and during the Hearing. It is important that the Panel Members hear what you have to say, as this will help them to make a decision that is best for you.

You can share your views in lots of different ways:

- You can speak directly with the Panel Members.
- You can tell someone (such as an advocacy worker) how you are feeling and they can speak on your behalf.
- You can fill out a form which is called Hearing About Me and this is available online as well as in your Hearing letter.
- You can email or write to the Children's Reporter.

## Do you need more help?

You can get lots of information from the Children's Reporter's website – visit [www.scra.gov.uk](http://www.scra.gov.uk).

There is a section for children and another one for young people. You can also contact the Children's Reporter - their name, email address and telephone number will be on the letter which was sent to you.

Advocacy Workers are free and available to all children and young people attending a Hearing. You can find out more at [www.hearings-advocacy.com](http://www.hearings-advocacy.com).

If you would like to have a lawyer or get legal advice you can contact [www.slab.org.uk](http://www.slab.org.uk) – legal representation is free for almost all children and young people.

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SCOTTISH  
CHILDREN'S REPORTER  
ADMINISTRATION

# Going to a Children's Hearing

**This leaflet for children and young people includes:**

Where will it be?

Your rights

Who will be there?

Your views

## Why do I have to go?

Children's Hearings help to keep children and young people safe, and get them the support that they need. You might be asked to go to a Hearing because there are difficulties for you at home, at school or in the community. 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 often near where you live. Most Hearing rooms have been designed by young people who have attended Children's Hearings themselves to make you feel comfortable and safe.

If you would like to see your Hearing room before your Children's Hearing, you can ask for a pre-Hearing visit or you can look at pictures of them on our website. Sometimes, you can attend your Hearing online – this is called a Virtual Hearing.

## Do I have to attend?

Yes, unless the Reporter tells you that you don't have to. You can ask to be excused from attending, but usually, you must be there. Remember, you are the most important person at your Hearing and everyone is there to help you.

## Who will be there?

There are lots of people who might attend your Hearing, but you are the most important person there. Your parents or carers and a Social Worker will be there, as well as a Children's Reporter and three Panel Members. Children's Reporters organise the Hearing and send you a letter about it. The Reporter will come and say hello to you when you arrive.

Panel Members are specially trained volunteers who are there to help you and make a decision about what is best for you. You will meet them when you go in to the Hearing room. Sometimes, a teacher from your school or other professionals involved in your life might be there. You can also bring someone to support you, like an advocacy worker, as well as a lawyer if you would like one.

## What will happen?

You will be asked some questions about how things are for you, such as how things are for you where you are living, and whether you are getting the right support. The Panel Members will ask you these questions to make sure you get the right help. If you find the questions difficult to answer, you can ask your representative or advocacy worker to support you to help you say how you feel. You can also ask to speak to the Panel Members on your own.

## Your rights

You have lots of rights at a Children's Hearing. You can bring someone else to the Hearing to help you, such as an advocacy worker or a lawyer. They can support you to help you say how you are feeling and understand your rights. You can also ask questions at your Hearing and if there is anything you don't understand, it's always okay to ask the Panel Members or the Reporter to explain things to you.