

WHOLE SYSTEM APPROACH: A GUIDE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

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SEPTEMBER, 2022**

INTRODUCTION

This guide was created in collaboration with young people who have had contact with justice systems, various groups of young people who have had their own experiences with care and justice, and staff from the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ).

Working alongside Staf (Scottish Throughcare and Aftercare Forum), three young people were employed to lead the creation of this guide, which highlights some of the important information that children and young people should be aware of when coming into contact with the justice system.

The content of this guide has been influenced by a range of children and young people who have gone through the various stages of the Whole System Approach (WSA). They believe that the information provided will be useful to children and young people, and their families.

This guide is written for children and young people. Therefore, the content explains what they can expect at each of the stages. At the back of this guide information is provided about what some words mean.

There are lots of additional resources which might be helpful. CYCJ has created an interactive guide called Journey Through Justice. It helps to explain what to expect when you have been charged by police, and what might happen next. It provides links to websites which might also be helpful for you. Secondly, The Child's Journey provides an interactive map of the various stages of the justice system for people under 18. It includes links which family members, teachers, social workers and other adults might find useful.

CYCJ has also co-produced Know Your Rights When Entering Custody along with the Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland. It provides information about children's human rights when they are held in custody. For people over 18, Community Justice Scotland have produced a map which explains the different stages of the justice system.

If you would like any further advice or support there is a list of useful websites at the end of this guide. You can also contact CYCJ for further information at cycj@strath.ac.uk, or visit our website cycj.org.uk, or visit our child-friendly website which has lots of useful resources at justtherightspace.org

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EARLY & EFFECTIVE INTERVENTION (EEI)

Early and Effective Intervention (EEI) provides support for you when you might have caused harm or got into trouble. You will not have to go to a Children's Hearing or Court.

Its main purpose is to give you whatever support you need, and to help you achieve good things in the future.

You will get help with things you are struggling with, and encouragement in things you are good at so that you develop new skills and gain more confidence.

This is a voluntary process that should involve you and your family. You can decide not to take part if you want.

You should be treated as an individual. EEI should help you feel more accepted and understood, instead of judged. It should also help you to have a say in how best to deal with what has happened.

By being included in this process and having your needs fully met, it is hoped that you would be less likely to need support in the future.

What does EEI involve?

EEI will give you help in different areas of your life. It will try to help you to feel nurtured, respected, responsible, included, safe, healthy, active, and capable of achieving things.

Any information about you or what is going on in your life should only be shared with the workers involved in this process to help them understand how to support you.

You should expect that all workers involved in this process should have your best interests at heart.

Information will be gathered to help decide the best outcome for you; this might include a multi-agency meeting where police and other organisations like social work, health and education services discuss the information. You and your family or carers should also be involved in this discussion.

Any workers involved in this process should be looking at the things that have caused you to need support from EEI, finding out what can be done to prevent these from happening again and to help you make better choices in future. However, it is your choice if you want to take part in EEI, you can choose to not take part.

Next page: More about EEI...

EARLY & EFFECTIVE INTERVENTION (EEI)

Depending on the information available, the EEI group might decide to do one or more of the following things:

- You may not need any further support, so people may decide that there is no need to take any further action.
- You could be offered support from organisations such as education, health services, fire and rescue, social work. This could include things like Restorative Justice, help to understand alcohol and drugs, or opportunities to take part in activities.
- Police might give you a warning. This means that they will take a note of what happened and ask you not to behave that way again.
- The group might decide to tell the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) if they are worried about you to make sure you get the right help and support.

Workers involved should spend some time with you to discuss which options are right for you.

You should have a worker or someone to guide you through the process with your best interests at heart, and who will give you extra support.



Next page: Diversion from Prosecution

DIVERSION FROM PROSECUTION

Diversion from prosecution (often referred to as diversion) is a way to support children and young people who have been charged with an offence without going to court.

This could involve having support from social work or voluntary organisations to take part in activities based around your needs. It should not show up on a criminal record as a conviction but could be included in additional information.

Procurator Fiscal's decision

The Procurator Fiscal (PF) is the person responsible for the prosecution of crimes.

If the PF receives a police report related to something you might have done they might make the decision to offer you diversion rather than prosecution. The PF will write to you to explain their decision and offer you the option to take part in diversion.

Diversion is voluntary, so you can choose whether to take part or not. If you decide not to take part the case will go back to the PF, and they will decide what is the best course of action to take. This might include a Fiscal Work Order (a period of unpaid work), a fine, prosecution, or something else.

Before you make the decision it's important to know:

- You should be given a full explanation of the process, the decisions that can be made, the length of time of the support you'll get, and the potential outcomes.
- You can seek advice from a lawyer before you make a decision.
- No information you share about the alleged offence during the diversion process can be used by the PF if you choose not to take part, withdraw during it, or if the diversion process is unsuccessful.

You do not need to say whether you are guilty or innocent of the alleged offence, but you do need to take some responsibility for the situation and have a willingness to accept the support being offered to you.

Remember:

If you are charged with an offence this does not mean you have been convicted of it.

Next page: More about Diversion...

DIVERSION FROM PROSECUTION

Assessment for diversion

If you decide to take part in diversion an assessment will be carried out to find out if it is the best option for you. Assessments can be carried out by social workers or voluntary organisations.

The assessment should include your understanding of the charge and your views of the diversion process.

You can make suggestions around what support might be helpful for you.

Decisions that might be made:

- If you do not attend the assessment or change your mind, or if there are other reasons why you couldn't take part in the assessment, they may decide you're not suitable for diversion.
- They may decide you are suitable - the Procurator Fiscal will clarify the outcome but if you already have the right support in place new supports may not be needed.
- They may decide you are suitable, and should highlight what they think the best support for you might be and how long this would take.

Diversion support

If you choose to take part in diversion, the activities and support should be focused on what's best for you.

For example, it could involve supporting you to find employment or training, or to think about your actions and emotions in a different way.

It could also include Restorative Justice approaches where you might meet with the people who have been affected by the alleged offence to discuss the issue.

There is a wide range of support that could be provided during diversion, and it could take place on an individual basis or as part of a group.

Usually diversion is completed within three months of the assessment report being sent to the PF, but it can take longer if needed.

Once you've completed diversion your worker will write up a report to the PF summarising what you've been doing during the diversion. The PF will then decide if this has been completed successfully or not.

The PF should then write to you to tell you what their decision is. You should receive help to contact the PF if you need it.

If the PF decides you've completed the diversion successfully, there is a very high chance that the alleged offence will not be taken to court.

This section was co-produced with young people who have experience of Diversion from Prosecution.

COURT SUPPORT

Court support is the help you should get when you attend court charged with a crime. It should support you with anything you might need help with.

Court support court include things like:

- Emotional support.
- Explaining what is happening so that you understand the different stages, who will be there and what their roles are, and where they will sit in court.
- Helping you understand what to do when you go into court, how you should behave and speak, and what the court will look like.
- Making sure you're safe and comfortable in the police or court cells.
- Finding you somewhere to stay, and connecting you with housing services.
- Helping you get the right benefits.
- Supporting you into education, employment or training.
- Supporting you to attend appointments with solicitors or future court dates.
- Helping you connect with family or carers.
- Helping you understand bail conditions and how to make sure you stick by them.
- Helping you to access support from different organisations for things like drug or alcohol use, or mental health issues.

Bail

One of the decisions made in court is whether you should be remanded until your next court appearance. This means that instead of returning to where you usually stay, the judge (known as the Sheriff) will decide whether you are placed in a locked environment such as secure care or custody.

You could be released on bail instead of being remanded. This is sometimes supervised, which means you may get help with understanding and adhering to bail conditions, as well as help with attending court dates, appointments, and receiving support from other services.

If the Sheriff believes you are not following the rules to your bail conditions, are not engaging with the support offered to you, or are unlikely to appear in court the next time, they may decide to remand you instead. They may also do this if you forget or miss your court date.

Remand

If the Sheriff decides to remand you, secure care should be used if you are under the age of 16 or have a Compulsory Supervision Order (CSO) through the Children's Hearing System.

If you're over 16, not on a CSO, and are remanded, you will be sent to a Young Offenders Institute like Polmont. You should be given help to understand what is going on in court, and your lawyer should assist you in understanding what decisions have been made.

Next page: More about Court Support...

COURT SUPPORT

Support whilst in court

When you go to court, you should have someone with you. This could be a social worker or someone from a voluntary organisation. They should answer any additional questions the Sheriff may have about the assistance you will receive. They will also make sure that you understand what has happened in court, and answer any questions you may have. This is different from the use of a lawyer.

Criminal Justice Social Work Report

If you plead guilty or are found guilty, the Sheriff will request that a social worker put together a report on you, your personal circumstances, and your views on why the crime happened. After you have attended court you should be assigned a social work appointment as soon as possible. If you fail to show up for this appointment, the Sheriff may remand you until the report is finished.

Your needs should be mentioned in this report, along with various options the Sheriff might consider. The report should also include how you'd be expected to cope if you did spend time in prison.

Additionally, the report must discuss all the available community alternatives to prison and whether any of them would be helpful in resolving issues and preventing future incidents. The report should reflect your opinions. If necessary, the individual preparing the report should also consult with any family members or caregivers.

Sentencing options

The person who is writing the court report should help you understand the various decisions that the Sheriff might make. These could include attending a Children's Hearing, receiving supervision from a Community Payback Order, receiving an electronic tag, having a deferred sentence (this means the sentence is postponed to a later date), or going to prison.

These options vary depending on a lot of factors including your age and previous involvement with the justice system. The Sheriff will also take into account a variety of factors including the type of offence, current events in your life, your feelings towards the offence, or the possibility that another offence will occur.

If you want to read more about sentencing options extra information is included in the 'alternatives to secure care and custody' section of this guide. The person providing support to you when you are in court will be able to explain these to you.

This section was co-produced with young people who have experienced court.

Next page: Risk Management

RISK MANAGEMENT

Some children and young people might act in ways that cause harm to others. This might include things like violence, threats, or other things that hurt people.

If people are worried about you hurting others, those from certain professional backgrounds (social work, education, health etc.) will lead on a risk assessment, and might want to find out what you think and feel about the situation, or things that are happening in your life. Your family or caregivers should also be involved in this conversation. A risk assessment and plan should help you to stay safe and stop anyone from getting hurt. This is called risk management.

What does risk management involve?

Risk management could include talking to a social worker or someone else about something that has happened. Your views are very important and must be listened to when planning. This might include questions that upset you. You should let them know if this happens.

Risk assessment is a way to find out the type of help you need, and how often you might need it. It also helps you understand and reduce the risk of someone being hurt.

If you just require help with a few issues, the level of support you receive should be low. If you require assistance with lots of issues, the level of support you receive should be high. The level of support received must also be appropriate for your situation and fair.

During your assessment the people carrying out the risk assessment will discuss safety plans with you. This could mean that there might be things you can't do or places you can't go to until after your assessment is completed.

The overall aim of the risk assessment is to keep you and others safe, and help you have a positive outcome.

Planning and responding to needs

You should be included at all stages of risk management, and should be able to attend all meetings where any decisions are made unless you choose not to attend. If you choose not to be involved in meetings, someone must make sure that your views are still included.

This will help the appointed professionals to you understand:

- What your views are
- What you find difficult
- Your strengths and what you do well
- What they can do for you if any difficult situations arise
- How to help you avoid getting into difficult or dangerous situations

This will also help professionals understand what help you and your family or caregivers might need. This allows them to identify any support or advice that might be useful in managing risk of harm to yourself or others.

Next page: More about Risk Management...

RISK MANAGEMENT

What will support look like?

The risk assessment should be appropriate to your age and stage of life. For example, what is suitable for a 12-year-old is unlikely to be suitable for a 17-year-old, so risk assessment should be appropriate to your age, experiences, and needs.

The adults and professionals in your life have a responsibility to help you stay safe, and to make it easier for you to avoid harmful behaviours.

Your life can change quickly, so you should expect any risk assessment or care plan to be reviewed regularly. This helps everyone understand what is helpful for you and what is not. The risk assessment might be updated if there are changes to what you need and what is working well for you.

What is expected of you should always be made clear, and you should be helped to understand who does what and when. The assessment will help decide what support or supervision you need, and who needs to be doing what. This helps to make sure that everyone, including you and your parents or caregivers, understands what should be done to help you.

This plan could be agreed at a Care and Risk Management (CARM) meeting, or in any other meeting where decisions are made (the names of these meetings are different across Scotland). The plan should include people from different services such as school, psychological services, drug or alcohol services, and/or social work so that everyone can take part, and they know what should be happening.

Although the risk management plan might mean you are not able to do some things at that time, alternative activities or options should be arranged so that you can do as many of the things someone of your age would normally do, as long as it is safe for you and others.



This section has been co-produced with young people who have experience of risk management.

Next page: Community Alternatives to Secure Care and Custody

COMMUNITY ALTERNATIVES TO SECURE CARE AND CUSTODY

When a social worker writes a report with you for the Children's Hearing System or court, the report must talk about ways to support you at home and in the community.

These reports must tell people what things you need help with and how support will be provided (more information about these sorts of reports can be found within the Court Support section).

If you go to a Children's Hearing the panel members will ask you and everyone else there questions to help them decide if secure care would be the best place for you.

These questions include:

- Have you gone missing in the past? If it happened again, would you be hurt in some way?
- Are you likely to hurt yourself?
- Are you likely to hurt someone else?

If the answer is "yes" to any of these questions, then secure care might be considered. This is called 'meeting the secure care criteria'.

If you go to court, guidance given to judges in Scotland recommends that they must think about how mature you are, what your best interests are, and how to help you stay away from trouble in the future when deciding what to do.

The panel members in the Children's Hearing, or the Sheriff in court, might not agree with these alternatives. Either the panel members or the Sheriff will make the final decision.

Secure care

Secure care is a type of residential home for children under 18 and is one of the most restrictive forms of residential care in Scotland. A Children's Hearing or court might place you in secure care if they believe that you might harm yourself or other people, or if you have been charged with an offence.

Custody

Custody means going to a Young Offenders Institution (YOI) such as Polmont. Courts in Scotland might place you there if you have been convicted of an offence, or if you have been placed there on remand.

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COMMUNITY ALTERNATIVES TO SECURE CARE AND CUSTODY

What are alternatives to secure care and custody?

Alternatives to secure care and custody can include lots of things such as wearing an electronic tag, attending counselling, moving into a children's house, doing unpaid work or something else decided by a Sheriff, or the panel at a Children's Hearing.

Alternatives to secure care or custody should always be considered by a Sheriff or the panel at a Children's Hearing, and you should not be placed in secure care or custody just because they haven't identified any alternatives.

This means that social work, health, police and other organisations must provide opportunities for you to get help elsewhere. This could be at home or somewhere else in the community, instead of going into a locked place.

What alternatives might be used?

Local authorities should consider lots of different services and supports, and everyone's support will look different. It also depends on whether you are going through the Children's Hearing System or the court. Any support provided should be based around your needs.



Here are some examples of alternatives, although there are a lot more options that the Sheriff might decide to use. Your lawyer or social worker will be able to give you more information about them all.

Intensive Support and Monitoring Service (ISMS)

An ISMS can be used if you have met the 'secure care criteria' at a Children's Hearing. It means that you will get extra support in the place that you live and could include things like:

- More frequent visits from a social worker and other organisations
- Educational support
- Help with alcohol or drug use
- Support with your mental health
- Building on the things that are going well for you
- Access to activities that help you cope better and keep you safe

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COMMUNITY ALTERNATIVES TO SECURE CARE AND CUSTODY

More examples of alternatives to secure care and custody:

Electronic Monitoring

There are two kinds of Electronic Monitoring used as an alternative to custody, and they are both sometimes referred to as a 'tag.' You would have to wear a tag around your ankle in each of them.

- A Movement Restriction Condition (MRC) limits the time that you can spend outside of your home and is the type of electronic monitoring used by the Children's Hearing System if you meet the 'secure care criteria'. The MRC might mean you have to stay inside the place you live for up to 12 hours each day.
- A Restriction of Liberty Order (RLO) can make the same limits as the MRC. If you do not stick to the limits, the social work department will have to inform the court, who may decide to use a different option instead.

In both cases the tag is fitted around your ankle and can tell whether you are inside the place you are supposed to be or not. It does not track your movement, so nobody will know exactly where you are if you do go outside.

An MRC or RLO should always be used along with other supports, so you should also get help with other things based on what you need.



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COMMUNITY ALTERNATIVES TO SECURE CARE AND CUSTODY

Community Payback Order

One option that could be given as an alternative to custody is a Community Payback Order (CPO). This means that someone from the social work department would support and supervise you to complete one or more of the requirements listed below:

- Offender Supervision Requirement: This would mean that you must work with a social worker to deal with some of the things in your life that aren't going well. For example, this could be your use of alcohol or drugs, your mental health, or your views about the harm you might have caused.
- Compensation Requirement: The Sheriff might decide that you must pay money to the person you have hurt, or whose property has been damaged.
- Programme Requirement: You may have to work with the social work department to complete a course or set of activities, such as learning new ways of responding to conflict.
- Unpaid Work Requirement: You would be expected to do work for the community, such as renovating gardens, painting the walls of buildings or clearing pavements.

- Residence Requirement: This means that the court could decide you have to stay at a specific address, such as a residential treatment centre.
- Conduct Requirement: This would mean that there are certain things that you must do, like attend workshops on a subject, or things that you must not do, like enter a certain area.
- Treatment Requirement: This could involve treatment for your mental health or for drug and/or alcohol use, where you would be expected to attend counselling or appointments with someone who can help you with these issues.



This section has been co-produced with young people who have experience of alternatives to secure care and custody.

Next page: Reintegration and Transitions

REINTEGRATION AND TRANSITIONS

Many children and young people will go through different stages in their lives. A transition is a period of change, from one important change to another. As people experience the care and justice sector these experiences will inevitably impact them.

If you leave secure care or custody, you will receive support to return to the community at the end of your time there. This is called Reintegration and Transitions or is sometimes called Throughcare.

Reintegration and Transition support will try to help you make changes in your life as easy as possible.

Reintegration and Transitions support services

If you are sentenced before your 16th birthday you should be treated as a looked after child, and afterwards as a care leaver. This means you are entitled to their support until your 26th birthday.

Your social worker should be thinking about where you can live as early as possible. They should consider whether you could return to family, but if this is not possible, they should look at other suitable housing options for you.

Your social worker should support you in accessing suitable housing before you leave and should help you prepare for the move back to the community. This might include home visits and time in the community to help you get used to being out of secure care or custody.

Social workers, key workers and prison officers should be making sure you're ready to leave by checking how you feel. They should find out what things might stop you from being happy when you move between secure care, custody and the community.

Issues such as money, accommodation, health, training and employment should be considered and discussed. You should be included in this process and listened to so that you can put a solid plan in place and have enough time to make sure the support available suits you.

During your time in secure care or custody (and again on your release back into the community) your social worker will complete an up-to-date risk assessment.

To learn more about risk assessment see the section on Risk Management on pages 9 and 10.

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REINTEGRATION AND TRANSITIONS

Benefits and financial support

When making a transition into the community you should receive help to open a bank account if you do not already have one. You will need this in order to receive benefits, and to pay things like bills and council tax.

You should get help to get your National Insurance number. You'll need this, and a form of ID and proof of address for things like starting work or applying for Universal Credit.

You should be taught how to make a claim for Universal Credit and how to use the online system for this. It can take a while for your benefits to come through, and this should be explained to you. It may take up to four weeks to get a claim started, but you can apply for an advanced loan to help you in the meantime.

When you leave custody, you will receive approximately £100 to help you until your benefits are sorted.

You can ask your social worker to help you apply for money for essential items. For example, you might be able to apply to local charities to help you buy clothes for job interviews. Other charities might be able to give you a small amount of money if you have had previous experience of care, including secure care.

Health

You will be given support and information on how to register with a GP and dentist.

You also have the right to access mental health support. It is important that you and the people who support you let people know if you need any support such as assessments, medication or counselling.

You can access support from specialist health services such as Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS) or sexual health services when you need it.

Your social worker or GP can help you access these as you may need to be referred to them.

The people working with you should have the right training and knowledge needed to help young people who have experienced trauma. This will ensure they are aware of the impact that trauma can have on health and wellbeing, as well as its impact on your actions and risk of you causing harm to yourself or other people. Your social worker should work in a way that is beneficial to people who have experienced trauma and should ensure that the right help is provided.

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REINTEGRATION AND TRANSITIONS

Licence conditions

When you leave secure care or custody, there is a possibility you might have to stick to license conditions. If you do not stick to these, you might have to return to secure care or custody.

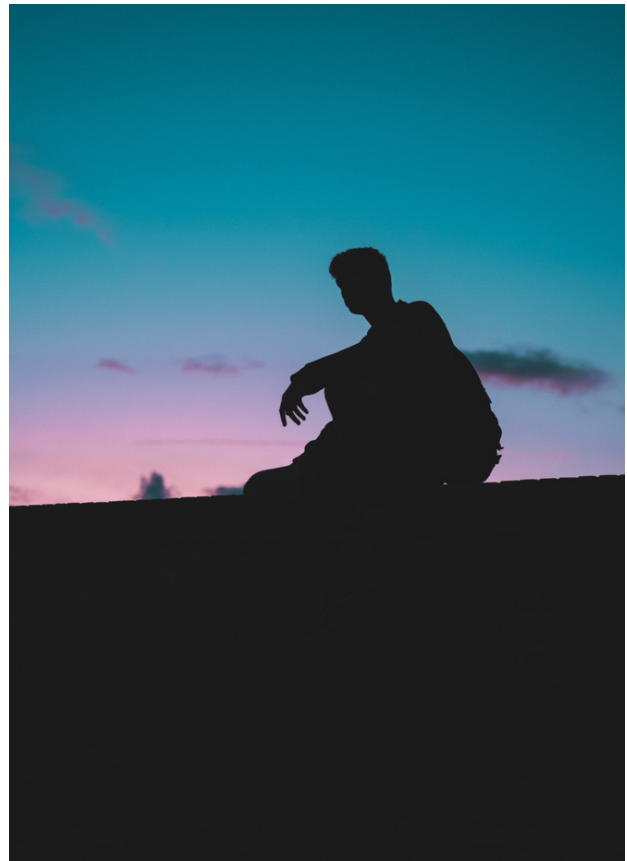
An example of licence conditions would be to stay out of trouble, look for employment or training, and to attend social work appointments.

More conditions might also be put into your licence. For example, you may need to receive support for alcohol or drug use, or to stay away from a certain places.

Your social worker will support you to stick to these conditions. They should offer support with anything you may have trouble with, and to encourage you to stick to the conditions.

It is the responsibility of the local authority to:

- Provide throughcare services for you if you're sentenced to custody for four years or more or are released on licence.
- Provide voluntary assistance to anyone leaving custody for the first 12 months of their release if they ask for it.



This section has been co-produced with young people who have experience of leaving secure care and custody.

Next page: Glossary of words and phrases

GLOSSARY OF WORDS AND PHRASES

Alleged Offence – This refers to an offence (crime) that someone has been accused of that hasn't been proven to be true. This is not the same as being convicted of an offence.

Bail – This means you won't be kept in custody until your next court date. You might have conditions to stick to which you should get support with through bail supervision.

Care and Risk Management (CARM) – This is the name of the policy which tells professionals how to do risk assessments which help them understand how they can support you and keep you and others safe.

Children's Hearing – This is a legal meeting that children are sometimes asked to go to with their families or carers, to help them sort out problems in their lives.

Children's Reporter (sometimes just called the **Reporter**) – This is the person who decides if a child needs to go to a Children's Hearing.

Complaint – This is a document that explains charges in less serious cases (these are called Summary cases). If the case is more serious (this is called a Solemn case) the document is called an Indictment.

Custody – This means that you would be placed in a locked environment such as a secure care centre or a Young Offenders' Institution until your next court appearance.

Deferred sentence – This is when a final decision about your case is postponed for a period of time, usually between 3 and 12 months. After this the decision will be made depending on how well you have coped in that time.

Detention – This is when you are put into a locked place. This should usually be a secure care centre, but might be a Young Offenders' Institution.

Indictment – An indictment is a court document that you will receive in Solemn (more serious) cases and will give you details of the offence that you are being taken to court for.

Procurator Fiscal – The Procurator Fiscal (PF) is responsible for deciding if and how crimes should be prosecuted or not in Scotland.

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GLOSSARY OF WORDS AND PHRASES

Prosecution – Prosecution means you might have to go to court. If you are found guilty of the thing you have been accused of you would be sentenced and have a criminal record.

Remand – This means you will be held in custody until your next court date. This could either be in a secure care centre or a Young Offenders' Institution.

Restorative Justice – This is a way of responding to a behaviour that has caused harm. If you've caused harm this might involve you apologising to the person you harmed, or explaining your feelings about the harm that was caused. This would be supported by a facilitator who can help the discussion.

Risk assessment – This is a way of helping yourself and the people who support you understand how what risks there might be to your safety and the safety of others. Assessments should take place as soon as possible. Assessments should be reviewed and updated as required in case your situation changes at all.

Solemn or summary cases – Solemn cases are for more serious offences where there will be a judge and jury present in the court. Less serious cases are called summary cases and are dealt with by the Procurator Fiscal.

Throughcare – This is the support that you will receive after you leave secure care or a Young Offenders' Institution.

UNCRC – The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child outlines all of the additional rights that children under 18 years old have. UNCRC is not currently part of the law in Scotland, so until they become part of the law they are used as standards for how you should ideally be treated.

Young Offenders' Institution (YOI) – This is where young people aged 16-21 will usually stay if they are sentenced to prison. It is designed for younger people and is separate from adult prisons.

For more information about words and phrases that you might see or hear, you can visit the Scottish Sentencing Council's Jargon Buster resource [here](#).

Next page: Where to find more info and advice

WHERE TO FIND MORE INFO AND ADVICE

Sometimes you or the people who look after you might need some advice on what your rights are or what kind of support you can get. The organisations and websites listed below have information on a range of issues.

Children in Scotland - This organisation offers advice and support which can help ensure that everyone under 18 has their rights respected.

The Scottish Child Law Centre - SCLC offers free legal advice on children's rights and child law.

Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland - The Children and Young People's Commissioner makes sure that everyone under 18, and anyone under 21 who is in care or is care experienced, has their rights promoted. It is the Commissioner's job to make sure that any laws that affect children and young people are fair. This website includes lots of information about what to do if you feel that your rights are not being met.

CLAN Childlaw - This organisation can provide legal support and advice for children in conflict with the law.

Crossreach Polmont Visitors Centre - The Crossreach Visitors Centre at Polmont helps to make sure that people in Polmont Young Offenders' Institution can keep in touch with their family or carers in a comfortable environment.

Families Outside - This organisation provides support to families affected by imprisonment.

Partners in Advocacy - This organisation provides advocacy to people of all ages in Scotland, including children and young people. Advocacy means that someone will listen to your views and wishes, and will make sure that people take these into account in decisions that are made about your life.

Scottish Government guide to Children's Rights - This document explains children's rights in Scotland.

Together Scotland - This is a group of organisations and charities who help make sure that the UNCRC shapes care and justice for children and young people in Scotland.

Who Cares? Scotland - This charity offers advice, support, and advocacy to young people in Scotland who have experience of care.