

What is a safeguarder?

A safeguarder is someone appointed by a children's hearing, or sheriff, to help them make the best decision for a child or young person.

Safeguarders are independent. This means they are not connected to other people working with the child, and are free to give their view of what they think is in the child's best interests. Safeguarders always do what they think is best for the child. Others may or may not agree with this.



About the Safeguarders Panel

Safeguarders belong to the national Safeguarders Panel. This is made up of all the safeguarders across Scotland. Each safeguarder has agreed to follow national standards to make sure they do the best job they can. You can read the national standards at www.children1st.org.uk/safeguarderstandards

Do you have any questions about the job that safeguarders do? Do you have any comments, good or bad, about how a safeguarder is carrying out their role? If you do please contact the Safeguarders Panel Team.
e: safeguarderspanel@children1st.org.uk
t: 0345 60 44 296

Safeguarders are appointed by Scottish Government Ministers. The Safeguarders Panel Team that supports safeguarders is based at Children 1st, Scotland's National Children's charity.

safeguarders panel



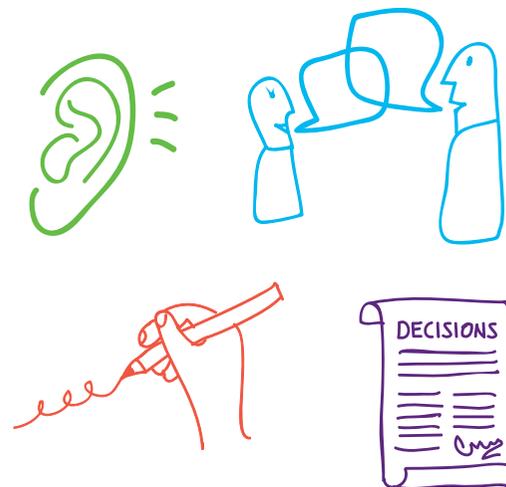
www.children1st.org.uk/safeguarders

Children 1st is contracted by the Scottish Government to assist with the management and operation of the Safeguarders Panel in terms of Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011 (Safeguarders Panel) Regulations 2012.

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Registered Scottish Charity No. SC016092

The safeguarder

Information



Why is a safeguarder appointed?

A children's hearing or sheriff can appoint a safeguarder for a child involved in the Children's Hearings System. They do this when they think a safeguarder will help them in making the best decisions for a child. The safeguarder assists the children's hearing or sheriff by gathering information.

What does a safeguarder do?

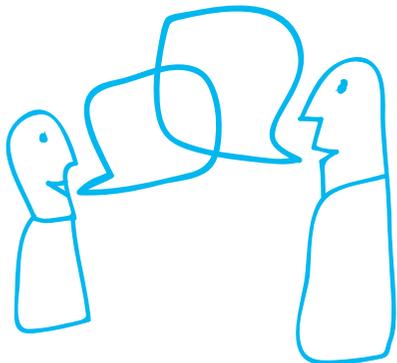
They listen as the child tells them what they would like to happen and do their best to answer any questions the child has.

They speak to other people in the child's life, such as parents, carers and teachers, to ask what they think is best for the child.

They may be asked by the children's hearing or sheriff to write a report. In it they say what the child wants to happen, and give their view as to what they think is best for them.

They speak to the children's hearing, or sheriff. They tell them what the child wants to happen, and give their view as to what they think is best for them.

Knowing the child's view and having heard from the safeguarder and others, the children's hearing or sheriff will make a decision.



Keeping information safe

Safeguarders gather information about the child they have been appointed to. By law, they have to make sure that this information is kept safe and shared only with people who have a right to know this.

If a safeguarder receives information about a child or adult not being safe or about a crime, it is their duty to report this.

If a safeguarder writes a report, the Safeguarders Panel Team may ask to read this. They would do so only to check that the safeguarder is doing their job well and would not share information with anyone else. If you have any worries about this, please let the safeguarder or the Safeguarders Panel Team know.

