

If you have a legal aid solicitor (sometimes called a lawyer) helping you because you are going to a children's hearing or court, there are some things you should know:



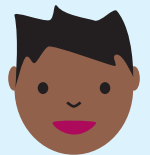
## Does my legal aid solicitor need to follow rules?

- The government pays for your legal aid solicitor. This means that they can set rules the solicitor has to follow.
- The government has set some rules because they think that children need and deserve to have solicitors with special skills and experience.
- You can tell us if your solicitor doesn't follow these rules and we can look into it.



## What are the rules?

- Legal aid solicitors have to be on a register before they can help you.
- You can ask if your solicitor is on the register.
- Solicitors can only get on to this register if they agree to follow some rules about the way they act.
- You can read more about what the rules say your solicitor should do in the next section.
- If the solicitors don't follow these rules we can stop them doing legal aid work.



## What can I expect from my solicitor?

- Your solicitor should know all about how children's hearings and courts work.
- Your solicitor should make sure the children's hearing or court knows what you think and what you want to tell the children's hearing or the sheriff or judge.
- Your solicitor should be able to tell you about what might happen in your case.
- Your solicitor should be able to tell you about what is happening in a way that you understand.
- Your solicitor should always try to give you enough time to think about things. They shouldn't try to see you for the first time just before you go into a children's hearing or court. This is so that you have time to think about things properly and tell them what you want to happen.
- Your solicitor should make sure that people at the hearing mainly talk about what is best for you.



## What can I do if my solicitor doesn't follow these rules?

- If you feel able to you can ask the solicitor to follow these rules.
- If you don't think your solicitor is following the rules properly, tell your parents or carers, your social worker, the Reporter or the children's hearing. All these people can then help you tell the Scottish Legal Complaints Commission or the Scottish Legal Aid Board who will look into this for you.



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