



# Children's Legal Assistance

Information for adults  
and young people

Children's legal assistance in  
children's hearings and related  
court cases



# What is children's legal assistance?

Children's legal assistance can pay for a solicitor to do work on your behalf. This may include giving you advice before or after a children's hearing, representing you at a children's hearing, or representing you in court after a children's hearing has taken place.

Depending on the type of hearing (a children's hearing or a court hearing), and depending on whether you are eligible, you may be able to get children's legal assistance.

There are lots of factors affecting what kind of children's legal assistance you might get. Speak to your solicitor and tell them about your circumstances. They will tell you if you are likely to be able to receive children's legal assistance.

This leaflet gives more information about the kinds of children's legal assistance that may be available to you.



## How will I know if I can receive children's legal assistance?

Your solicitor will explain this in more detail. To receive children's legal assistance there are tests that must be met. These include financial tests. The tests are different depending on whether the assistance is for a children's hearing or a related court hearing.

## What is a contribution?

Children's legal assistance may not always be free. You may have to pay something towards the cost of it. This is called a contribution. Your solicitor will explain this in more detail.

## Will I have to pay a contribution?

This depends on your level of income and any items of value you own or savings. Your solicitor will also explain this to you in more detail.

# What types of assistance can I receive?

## *Advice and Assistance*

Advice and Assistance is used for things like giving you general advice before and after a children's hearing has taken place. This kind of assistance does not include a solicitor representing you at a children's hearing or related court case.

This is available to you if you meet a financial test which will depend on the amount of income or savings that you have. Your solicitor will work this out for you.



## ***Assistance By Way of Representation***

This is a type of children's legal assistance which is used to allow a solicitor to represent you at a children's hearing or certain cases in the court.

It will be available to you if you meet a financial test which will depend on the amount of income or savings that you have. Your solicitor will work this out for you. You will also need to show that there is a reason for a solicitor to represent you at a hearing to help you take part. Your solicitor will explain this to you in more detail.

## ***Children's Legal Aid***

This is the type of assistance that is used if your case was heard at a children's hearing and goes to court. Your solicitor will advise you about this.



## Where can I find a solicitor?

Go to our website [www.slab.org.uk](http://www.slab.org.uk) and use the solicitor finder.

Go to the Law Society of Scotland's website [www.lawscot.org.uk](http://www.lawscot.org.uk) and use their solicitor finder.

The Scottish Child Law Centre can give you free telephone advice and put you in touch with a solicitor who deals with child law. You can call them free on 0800 328 8970.

## Where can I get more information?

Contact the  
Scottish Legal Aid Board:

0131 226 7061  
[www.slab.org.uk](http://www.slab.org.uk)  
[general@slab.org.uk](mailto:general@slab.org.uk)



For information about going to a hearing visit the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration website [www.scra.gov.uk](http://www.scra.gov.uk).