



**WHO
CARES?**
SCOTLAND

EQUALITY | RESPECT | LOVE

Know Your Rights



A pack for Care Experienced children. Know your rights when it comes to Brothers and Sisters and other important topics.

Know Your Rights

Brothers and Sisters

Brothers and Sisters and Care

You have the **right** to a relationship with your brothers and sisters, who are also called 'siblings'.



What is a 'sibling'?

These are **people you view as your brothers and sisters**, they could be:

- Someone who you share at least one parent with.
- Someone you have lived with like a step-brother, step-sister or cousin.

You have the right to:

- **be told of the time and place** of your sibling's **Children's Hearing**
- **be given documents by the Children's Reporter** that are about your **family time** with your sibling
- **be part of your sibling's Children's Hearing**
- have an **advocate** **share your views** at the **Children's Hearing**



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What are the rules for siblings in care?

The grown ups who make decisions about your care have to keep you and your siblings together as long as its safe.



When choices are made about where you and your siblings live, you will be listened to.



If you have to move, the grown ups will do their best to make sure you live with your brothers and sisters.



If you do live apart from your siblings the grown ups should make sure you see each other as much as possible.



Siblings are allowed to take part in each others hearings when it's safe to do so.



When siblings are not able to be at a hearing, the grown ups must think about all of you and what their choices mean for all of you.



Even though it can feel scary, it is really good to learn about your rights, so that you can make the best decisions for yourself

Find out more about Who Cares? Scotland and how we can support you by visiting www.whocarescotland.org.

If you need this resource pack in another format please email comms@whocarescotland.org

Think your rights are not being upheld?

**You can get lifelong
advocacy support through**

THE HELPLINE

0330 107 7540

help@whocaresScotland.org

**Open 12 noon to 4pm
Monday to Friday**



For more information about your rights you can visit **celcis.org**, **cypcs.org.uk** and **clanchildlaw.org**.

Your rights are protected in law under The Children Scotland Act 1995, which was amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

Glossary

Complicated words can make it harder to understand what is going on. We have highlighted some difficult words and terms used in this pack and explained what they mean below.

Advocates - also known as Advocacy and Participation Workers (APWs), are people who can support you to make your views heard or may sometimes speak on your behalf.

Care Leaver - someone who was taken off their Compulsory Supervision Order on or before their 16th birthday. We prefer to use the term Care Experienced person as we know care doesn't leave you.

Chair of the Hearing - is the person who will lead the conversation of a Children's Hearing.

Children's Hearing - is a legal meeting set up because there are concerns about your wellbeing or the care you are receiving.

Contact - is when you get to spend time with your birth family that you might not live with. We prefer to use the term 'family time' but in documents and processes it might be called 'contact'.

Compulsory Supervision Order - this is a formal order made by a Children's Hearing. It's for children or young people who need additional protection or support. It means their local authority has to support them and give their family help. It can also mean the child or young person has to live away from their family.

Family Time - is when you get to spend time with your birth family that you might not live with. This is sometimes called 'contact'.

Local Authority - this is the local council that is responsible for all public services in an area.

Panel - at every Children's Hearing there are always three volunteers, called Panel Members. This is referred to as a 'panel' it is their job to understand your circumstances, listen to your views, and then make decisions about your care.

Pre-hearing panel - this can be arranged before a Children's Hearing to make decisions on issues before a Children's Meeting. This could be deciding if someone should be included such as a brother or sister.

Reporter - this person's main job is to make a decision about if a Children's Hearing meeting will take place for a child or young person.

If you ever need help understanding different phrases or terms used by professionals in your life, you can get in touch with our Helpline - details are on the back page.