



CHILDREN & FAMILIES
SOCIAL WORK MORAY

Child Protection Investigation

A Guide for Parents, Guardians or Carers

Name of Social Worker:

Phone number:

Email:

If you need this leaflet in another language or format text box
please email equalopportunities@moray.gov.uk



There are concerns that your child or children may be at risk of harm.

Concerns may have been raised by your child or children, a family member, a member of the public, or a professional.

These concerns may be about:

- **Physical abuse:** when a child is deliberately hurt or injured (hitting, kicking, pushing, smacking etc.)
- **Sexual abuse:** when a child is forced or persuaded into sexual activity
- **Neglect:** when the basic needs of a child are not being met. These include love, safety, affection, food, warmth and shelter.
- **Parental substance use:** misuse of alcohol, drugs, prescribed medication etc.
- **Domestic abuse:** experiencing domestic abuse as a witness is child abuse.
- **Emotional abuse:** when a child's confidence and self-esteem is repeatedly damaged by emotional ill treatment.

The Initial Referral Discussion (IRD)

An IRD meeting is held when a child protection concern is raised. This is a professional meeting where professionals from Social Work, Police, Health and Education will examine the current concerns and any previous information which is important.

The IRD will make decisions as quickly as possible and tell parents and carers what will happen next.

The IRD will decide what should happen next.

Options include:

- **No further action:** no support or protection needs have been identified.
- **Single agency approach:** one agency/organisation provides support.
- **Multi-agency approach/child's planning:** a team of professionals from different agencies/organisations work with your family to offer support.
- **Joint investigative interview:** a formal, planned interview carried out by a police officer and a social worker with the child to hear their account of events.
- **Joint investigation:** police and social work continue further investigation into child protection concerns
- **Medical examination:** is not to identify if medical treatment is required (although this might be one outcome). It is to undertake an examination of the child's health and development
- **Child protection planning meeting:** is a meeting where the child, family and professionals can discuss the strengths and risk and agree if a protection plan is needed, which includes child protection registration
- **Referral to the Children's Reporter:** the Children's Reporter decides if a Children's Hearing is needed. This is a legal meeting for children/young people in need of help, support or protection.
- **Immediate protective measures:** Where concerns are serious and immediate, the IRD may consider legal measures or alternative care arrangements to keep the child safe.

Advocacy

You and your child will be offered independent advocacy by the Social Work Department. An advocate is someone who can support you to be part of any meetings and decisions being made about your child, helping you to have your voice heard and your views taken into account.

The Social Work Department is also here to answer any questions you have.

Complaints



If you have concerns about the process or the behaviour of a professional, you can make a complaint. There is information on the Moray Council website:

http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_1379.html

More information

More information of child protection can be found on the Moray Council website at:

http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_55497.html



Contact Information

Access team (Social Work)	01343 554370
West team (Social Work)	01343 557922
East team (Social Work)	01542 837236
Out of hours team (Social Work)	03457 565656
Police	101
NHS	111
Quarriers (advocacy)	01343 611411

