



child protection enquiries

A guide for Parents and Carers
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Nottinghamshire
SAFEGUARDING
CHILDREN Board



NOTTINGHAM CITY
Safeguarding
Children BOARD

Working in Partnership to Safeguard Children & Young People

Child Protection Enquiries

A Guide for Parents and Carers

You will have been told that child protection enquiries are being made about your child. This leaflet explains what this means.

What does making 'child protection enquiries' mean?

It means that a social worker has to ask questions to gather information to see if your child is safe.

Why is this needed?

Children's Social Care (formally Social Services) have received information that your child may have been harmed or could be harmed in the future. They have a legal duty to make enquiries, to decide whether or not they need to take action to safeguard and promote the welfare of your child. Such harm could be physical, emotional and sexual or neglect.

The safety of your child is the most important thing. We know the best way to do this is by working together and in all cases every effort will be made to keep you and your child together.

Who will be involved in these enquiries?

Children's Social Care will involve you and your family and anyone else who can help them to decide whether your child has been harmed or is at risk of harm. They will talk to a range of people that may include teachers, health visitors, your doctor or others.



Depending on the level of concern the police may also be involved and may need to see you or your child alone or with your social worker.

Do you need my permission to contact other people?

The social worker will normally ask for your permission to:-

- **Speak to other people from agencies that know your family**
- **Talk to your child alone.**

However, if you do not give your permission and your child is at risk of harm, Children's Social Care may still do this without your permission.

In some cases if the concerns are about you, Children's Social Care may speak to other people in organisations that know you and your family before they speak to you.

It is important that you are as open and honest as you can be so that everyone can understand what has happened or may happen in the future.

How will my child be involved?

Your social worker and the Police may need to talk to your child away from the home. Your child may also need to have a medical examination, and if they are old enough to give consent, this will be discussed with them. You will be asked if you agree with these things happening and in most cases you will be encouraged to go with your child.

If you do not give your consent, permission may be asked for from the court.

Wherever possible we will involve your child in the process and ask them for their views.

What happens after the enquiries?

- **If it is believed that your child is not at risk of harm in the future, Children's Social Care may take no further action**
- **A more detailed assessment may be needed where there is no risk of harm and it is felt that you would benefit from help and support**

- If it is felt that your child is at continuing risk of harm, a meeting will be held with people from organisations who know your child and family. This is called a 'Child Protection Conference'. You will normally be invited to this meeting as well as your child where appropriate. Your social worker will give you a leaflet to explain what may happen at this meeting and explain in further detail

Remember...

Whilst enquiries are made, most children remain at home with their family. However, where any individual is suspected of causing harm to your child, he or she may be asked to leave the home whilst enquiries are made.

If necessary the police can remove a child from a household in an emergency situation, otherwise only a court can make an order for the removal of children.

If you don't understand anything in this leaflet or during the enquiries please ask. It is part of the social workers' job to make sure that you understand what is happening and that you are involved.

If you want to make a complaint

If you are not happy with the way the enquiries about your child have been done, let your social worker or another person officially involved know.



If you are unhappy with one of the agencies working with you and your child, ask for their complaints leaflet.

This publication can be made available in alternative formats and languages upon request.