



Jargon Buster

Absconding

Running away from somewhere you have to stay.

Adjournment

A short break during the hearing.

Child's plan

The report which explains what support will be given to the child to meet their needs. It is normally written by their social worker.

Child Protection Order

A legal order made by a Sheriff in an emergency. It means the child will be kept in a place of safety away from home.

Children's Reporter

The person who decides that a hearing is necessary and invites everyone to attend. They don't take part in the decision-making in a hearing.

Compulsory Supervision Order (CSO)

A Compulsory Supervision Order is a legal document that means the local authority is responsible for looking after and helping the child. It can contain decisions that say where the child must live – and other decisions that must be followed.

Contact

Seeing members of your family (or people who are important to you). Family time.

Deferral

Where the hearing decides to delay making a decision to another day.

Foster carer

Foster carers can look after children when their parents are not able to. The children stay with the foster carer in their home.

GIRFEC

'Getting it Right for Every Child' is the way for families to work together with people who can support them such as teachers or nurses.

Implementation authority

The local council who have to make sure the decisions made by the hearing happen.

Interim Compulsory Supervision Order (ICSO)

A short-term decision when the hearing has decided to delay making a long-term decision to another day but some decisions couldn't wait. It might decide where the child lives or how often they see someone important to them.

Interim continuation of a Compulsory Supervision Order

A decision to continue a CSO to the next children's hearing when the hearing has been deferred to another day and the current order might run out before then.

Interim variation of a Compulsory Supervision Order

A short-term decision to change the child's current order when the hearing has been deferred to another day.

Legal aid

Payment covering some, or all, of a person's legal expenses.

Measures

The order says that something has to happen to support the child, the measures say what those things are. For example, it could be seeing family members more or less or saying where the child should live.

Movement Restriction Condition (MRC)

An electronic tag which limits where a child can go at certain times. It can be a measure on a CSO or ICSO.

Non-disclosure request

When someone asks the hearing to keep some information from someone. There must be very good reasons.

Notification

The term for informing those with a duty and/or right to attend a hearing or pre-hearing panel of the children's hearing. This will usually be by way of a letter from the Children's Reporter.

Permanence

When a child has a stable, safe place to live without needing to come to children's hearings.

Permanence order

An order made by the Sheriff giving rights to the local authority which allow them to decide where a child lives until they are 16.

Pre-hearing panel

A meeting of three Panel Members to decide a matter in advance of the children's hearing.

Principal Reporter

The head Children's Reporter. Their responsibilities are carried out by local Children's Reporters.

Procurator Fiscal

The person who prosecutes crimes in Scotland.

Proof

The Sheriff will read reports and hear evidence to decide if the examples in the statements of fact are true or false.

ROP

Record of Proceedings.

Relevant period

The length of time an order will last.

Relevant person

Parents and other people who have a parental-type role in a child's life.

Safeguarder

Someone who is independent can read the reports and speak to the child and any important people to make sure decisions are being made in the child's best interests.

Schedule 1 offence

A physical, emotional or sexual offence against a child.

Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA)

The Children's Reporter works for SCRA; they decide if a child might need a children's hearing and arrange children's hearing and send all the papers out.

Section 25

When a child lives away from home with family, friends, foster carers or in a children's home because of their parent's agreement, not because of the decision of a children's hearing or court.

Secure authorisation

The decision of a hearing which allows a child to be placed in secure accommodation.

Secure accommodation

A form of residential care which limits the freedom of children who stay there and offers intensive support.

SHANARRI

Scotland has named eight areas of a child's life which can make their wellbeing better or worse. They are Safe, Heathy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible and Included, often called by the initials SHANARRI.

Siblings

Brothers and sisters.

Statements of grounds

The legal reasons which the Children's Reporter writes explaining why a child has been referred to a hearing.

Substance misuse

Regularly using anything which affects the way you think and act and adversely affects your health. This can be alcohol, illegal drugs, prescription drugs or solvents.

Substantive decision

If the hearing have all the information they need, they can make a decision which can last up to a year.

Warrant to secure attendance

An order issued by a hearing to enable the Police to search for, keep somewhere safe and bring the child to the next children's hearing.