

Your rights with social services



For parents with a learning disability

This booklet tells you what the law says are your rights



How to use this booklet



This is an easy read version. The words are easy to read and understand.



You may need support to read and understand this booklet. Ask someone you know to help you.

Some words may be difficult to understand. These words are in **bold blue writing**. They are explained in a box underneath the words.

If any of the words are used later in the booklet they are shown in **normal blue writing**. If you see words in **normal blue writing**, you can look up what they mean in **Hard words** on page 14.



This booklet was made into easy read for the Working Together with Parents Network by Learning Disability Wales using Photosymbols.

This booklet is part of a set of 4 booklets about your rights as a parent:



Booklet 1 — Your rights when you are pregnant



Booklet 2 — Your rights when your baby is born



Booklet 3 — Your rights with social services



Booklet 4 — Your rights when your child is taken away

To get more copies of any of these 4 booklets please contact Samantha Williams, Policy and Network Co-ordinator:



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European law on human rights

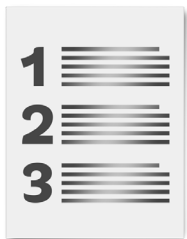


Most of the rights in this booklet are from the European law on human rights.



The law says people supporting you must keep your human rights.

There are different parts to the law called **Articles**.



Articles are parts of a law. They have numbers so you know which **Article** gives you the rights.

Your rights with social services



Other people may worry about how well you can look after your child.

They may worry about your child being safe.



People may want you to have support to look after your child.



A social worker may come to see you.



There will be a lot of meetings to talk about what is best for your child.



There will be staff from health and social services at the meetings.

[Article 8](#) says you have the right to be at all the meetings.



You have the right to have your child live with you until all the meetings happen. This might take many months.



But if social services think your child may be in serious danger they can take your child away.

Your right to information that is easy for you to understand



Article 14 says you have the right to be treated fairly.

Information must be given to you in the best way for you to understand. This includes having the information in Welsh.



You must be given enough time to understand the information.



This may mean you get information you need **before** meetings.



You have the right to see what information social services have about you.

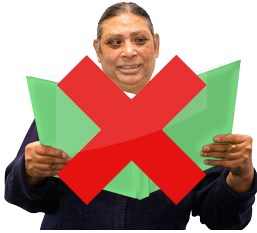
This means you can see what social workers write about you. This right comes from a British law called the Data Protection Act.





An **advocate** can help you to ask for information social services have about you.

An **advocate** is a person who speaks up for you or helps you to speak up for yourself.



Sometimes social services can say **no** to letting you see your information.

An **advocate** can explain when this happens.

Your right to go to meetings



Article 8 says you have the right to be at meetings where people talk about your child.

The meetings may be about:



- how well you are doing as a parent



- who will look after your child

- when you can see your child if they do not live with you.

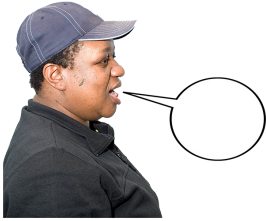
Any decisions must be fair.



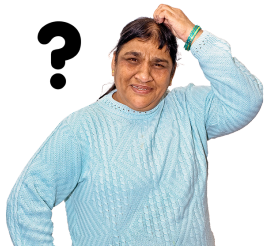
You must be part of the decisions about your child when possible.

Your right to be listened to

Article 6 says you must be given a fair chance to have your say and be listened to.



So you must have a chance to say what you think at any meetings about your child.



Meetings may be hard to understand. You may find it hard to have your say.



Social services must make sure are supported to have your say at meetings.

You have the right to say what you think about where social services want your child to live.

Your right to support



You may have to go to court about who looks after your child.

You have a right to a **solicitor** and an **intermediary**.



A **solicitor** is someone who is trained to understand the law.



An **intermediary** is a person trained to support you in court by explaining hard words.

Social services or an **advocate** must tell you how to get this support when you need it.

Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014

Easy Read version of the

Social Services and
Well-being (Wales) Act
2014



This law is only in Wales. It says that social services must:

- help children to grow up in their own family when possible
- listen to what you want as long as it is safe
- listen to people who know your child
- make it easy for you to stay in touch with your child
- tell you where your child is living as long as it is safe.



This law also says that children should live:

- near their home as long as it is safe
- with their brothers or sisters
- where they can carry on with their school.



What to do when your rights are not kept

You may feel your rights have not been kept.



An **advocate** can help you to talk with social services about this.



You have the right to complain about what social services do.

An **advocate** can help you with this. They can help to:

- get things put right
- or explain why things cannot be changed.



Hard words

Advocate

An advocate is a person who speaks up for you or helps you to speak up for yourself.

Articles

Articles are parts of a law. They have numbers so you know which Article gives you the rights.

Intermediary

An intermediary is a person trained to support you in court by explaining hard words.

Solicitor

A solicitor is someone who is trained to understand the law.