

## The Safeguarding Process

The Convenor or CYCT appoints a Safeguarder to gather or collate information, assess proposals if there is conflict between the parents and professionals involved, and/or gain the child's views.

The Safeguarder will:

- ensure the child's rights are protected
- ensure the views of the child are established, valued and communicated to the hearing
- ensure any proposals made to the hearing are in the child's best interests
- meet with the child and the family, separately if necessary, then prepare a report for the hearing
- comment on appropriateness of proposals (eg the Child's Plan)
- attend the hearing to respond to CYCT

The Safeguarder may be asked to attend Court if the concerns are not accepted by the child and their parents.

The Safeguarder's involvement usually ends when the CYCT makes a final decision or a legal order (care requirement).

## Child Welfare Principles

- A child's welfare is normally best served by being brought up within his own family and community
- Where this is not possible, his welfare is normally best served by keeping in contact with his family and community, and it is the responsibility of the parents and any public authority to take reasonable steps to promote such contact
- No compulsory intervention shall be made unless it is necessary for the effective provision to the child of care, protection, guidance or control
- Irrespective of age, development or ability, a child should be given an opportunity to express his wishes, feelings and views in all matters affecting him
- Except where it is shown to the contrary, it is presumed a child is capable of forming a considered view from the age of 12 years
- It is expected that parents and any others responsible for a child's welfare will consult and co-operate with one another, and where possible resolve matters by agreement, in an atmosphere of openness and non-confrontation, with recourse to formal proceedings (whether court or CYCT) only as a last resort.

Family Proceedings Advisory Service  
Guernsey Information Centre  
North Esplanade  
St Peter Port  
GY1 2LQ  
+44 (0) 1481 743700  
fpasadmin@gov.gg



States of Guernsey  
Family Proceedings  
Advisory Service

## Information

# Child, Youth and Community Tribunal System



**Putting children and young people first**

+44 (0) 1481 74300  
fpasadmin@gov.gg

## Family Proceedings Advisory Service

## Putting children and young people first

### Who are we?

The Family Proceedings Advisory Service, formerly the Safeguarder Service, was set up in January 2008 to provide advice in family proceedings. We work independently of the Committee for Health and Social Care or any other agency. The legal basis of the Family Proceedings Advisory Service is The Children (Guernsey and Alderney) Law 2008 as amended.

### What do we do?

We

- Safeguard and promote the interests of children and young people involved in family court proceedings and the Child, Youth & Community Tribunal (CYCT) system to ensure that children's views are heard
- Make recommendations to the courts, the Children's Convenor and CYCT on the best arrangements for children's care
- Offer a free mediation service to attempt to resolve disputes or disagreements outside of the court environment.

### We become involved:

- When parents or carers are separating or divorcing and have not reached agreement on the care of their children
- Or when social services have become involved and children's safety is potentially at risk
- Or when asked by the Convenor or the CYCT to inform their decision making
- Or when children are being adopted

### The CYCT System

The CYCT system was introduced in 2010. It is a legal system dealing with cases where compulsory intervention is required in the life of a child. It offers a way of responding to behaviour and welfare concerns in a coordinated way outside a court environment. Anyone can refer concerns about a child to the Convenor. The Convenor investigates the concern by requesting information about the child, and if it is decided there may be a need for compulsory intervention the child is referred to a hearing of the CYCT.

During the investigation the Convenor can request advice from a Safeguarder .

The CYCT may also appoint a Safeguarder for a child if not enough information is available, or if there is conflict between the parents and professionals , or to gain the child's views.

The Safeguarder is independent of all other agencies, and will consider the future care plan for the child or young person and make recommendations.

All the relevant information you provide will be included in our report which is confidential to the court or CYCT and all parties involved.

If the Safeguarder believes that a child is at immediate risk of harm it is our responsibility to contact the Committee for Health and Social Care. As we believe in the importance of working in an open and honest way we will if possible inform you before doing so.

### Our Values

We respect the needs, dignity and rights of all individuals in a non-discriminatory way  
We work in a non-judgemental, fair and honest manner

We are committed to a high quality child-centred service

Family Proceedings Advisory Service

Guernsey Information Centre

North Esplanade

St Peter Port, GY1 2LQ

+44 (0) 1481 743700