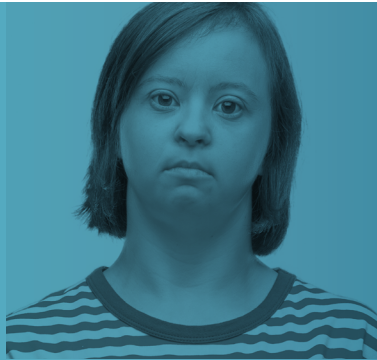




Advocacy
Service
Aberdeen



*Your life.
Your voice.*



Adult Support and Protection



What is Adult, Support and Protection?

You have the right to be safe.

There is a law that tells the Council to make sure you are safe if people are worried about you.

The Council might need to become involved if they believe 3 things about your situation:

- They believe you find it difficult to look after your safety, health, rights or other interests; and
- They believe you are at risk of harm; and
- They believe you are more likely to be harmed because of a disability, mental illness or physical illness.

People helping you keep safe must:

- Understand that it is important to include you.
- Help you be included in decision making if you want.
- Treat you the same as others in similar circumstances.

All help or decisions about your safety must:

- Benefit you.
- Consider your wishes and your abilities.
- Consider any views of people who know you well and care about you.

What happens when people are worried I am not safe?

Someone from the Council might want to talk to you about your safety. They will be called a **Council Officer**. Your Social Worker or Care Manager might want to talk with you too.

The Council Officer might visit you at home so you can talk with them. They might want to visit places where you spend your time. They can speak to your Doctor and can ask to read information about you. They might ask you to be examined by your Doctor or a Nurse.

What happens if I don't want to talk to people about my safety?

You can **agree to speak** to the Council or be examined by a Doctor or Nurse.

You can **refuse to speak** to the Council or be examined by a Doctor or Nurse.

Some people **find it easy to speak** about their safety. They find this helps them and makes them feel better.

Some people **need help to speak** about their safety. They can feel worried about telling someone.

Some people don't agree with the Council's concerns for their safety and don't think there is anything to worry about.

Whatever your views are on your safety, you have the right to be listened to.

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What will the Council want to know if they talk with me?

They will want to make sure that you are safe and not being harmed. They will want to know how you feel about things. Harm can be done in different ways. It can be:

- Being hit, punched or scratched.
- When something or someone is making you feel scared, nervous or if you are being bullied.
- When someone steals your belongings or money.
- If people are worried you are not looking after yourself or your property.

You can always ask someone else to pass on your views if you want to.

What will happen after I talk with the Council?

The Council might decide that:

You are *not* at risk of harm and nothing else needs to happen.

Or

You are *at* risk of harm or are being harmed and this needs to be stopped.

If the Council is worried about your safety there might be meetings to talk about this. These meetings are called **Case Conferences**.



What happens at Case Conferences?

You can decide if you want to go to the meeting. You can have help from someone to go to the meeting.

If you don't want to go you can still tell people how you feel and what you want discussed. You can ask someone else to do this. You or someone else can write a letter telling people at the meeting how you feel. You or someone else can call one of the people attending the meeting and pass your views on to them. If you want, an advocacy worker can help you have your views heard and understood.

Only people that can help you will be at the meeting. There might be:

- A Chair Person
- A Police Officer
- Your Social Worker
- Your Support Worker
- A family member
- Your Advocacy Worker
- Your Doctor or Nurse

The meeting is private. Someone will talk with you after the meeting to discuss what was spoken about.

What happens if there are still concerns?

If someone still isn't safe after help, a Sheriff might decide that a **Protection Order** is needed.

There are **3 Protection Orders**:

1. An Assessment Order

This might be because the Council want to talk with you in private or for you to have a medical examination.

2. A Removal Order

This might be because the Council don't think you are safe where you are staying and want to move you somewhere else. This will only be for a short time.

3. A Banning Order

This would stop people going to places where they could harm someone.

The Sheriff will need to know if you agree with these orders before they are granted.

The Sheriff will need to make sure no one is stopping you saying what you think is best.



How to contact us

Telephone:

Willowbank Office: 01224 332314

Cornhill Office: 01224 557912

Email:

asa@advocacy.org.uk

Write to:

Advocacy Service Aberdeen
Aberdeen Business Centre
Willowbank Road
Aberdeen
AB11 6YG

Website:

www.advocacy.org.uk