

## The Safeguarding Process

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

The Safeguarder can:

- 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 members' questions

The Safeguarder may be asked to prepare an independent advisory report for the Court, convenor or CYCT

Court or CYCT hearing and Final Decision, Order or Care Requirement  
End of Safeguarder's involvement

## 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.

Fair Processing Notice  
(Data Protection)

Please refer to:-

[www.gov.gg/familyproceedingsadvisoryservice](http://www.gov.gg/familyproceedingsadvisoryservice)  
to view our Fair Processing Notice



States of Guernsey  
Family Proceedings  
Advisory Service

## Information Child, Youth and Community Tribunal System



**Putting children and young people first**

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## Family Proceedings Advisory Service

## Putting children and young people first

### Who are we?

The Family Proceedings Advisory Service (FPAS), formerly the Safeguarder Service, was set up in January 2008 to provide a family court advisory service. 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?

Our role is to:

- 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, Convenor or CYCT on the best arrangements for children's care

### 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 offers a way of coordinating services in cases of child welfare and offending behaviour to achieve best outcomes for the young person.

After an incident occurs or a concern arises the child or young person is referred to the Convenor. The Convenor investigates the incident or concern by requesting information from different sources, and if it is decided there may be a need for compulsory intervention the child is referred to a hearing of the CYCT.

The Convenor can request specific advice from a Safeguarder relating to the investigation of a concern around a child or young person.

The Court or the CYCT may request a Safeguarder if not enough information is available to them, or if there is conflict between the parents and professionals involved, 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.

### What about confidentiality?

All the relevant information you provide will be included in our report

### 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