

Information for children and young people



If you are on a Cross-border placement in Scotland, you have rights.

If you're on a cross-border placements, it means you might have to stay somewhere away from home to keep you safe. Even though you're there, you still have important rights that are protected by law in Scotland. Here are just some key rights that might be useful for you to know...

Right to Be Safe and to Be Treated Well

You have the right to be protected from harm. The government must make sure that everyone who looks after you treats you fairly. You should be treated with respect and dignity. You should have a comfortable place to stay and be well looked after by the people in your home.

Right to See Your Family

If you want to, you can keep in touch with your family through visits, phone calls, or messages, as long as it's safe and won't cause you harm.

Right to Learn

Even if you're staying away from home, you still have the right to go to school and continue learning.

Right to Be Heard

You have the right to speak up about what you want and share your thoughts and feelings about what's happening in your life. There will be regular check-ups, called review meetings, to see if you still need to stay in care. Your opinions are important, and people should listen to what you have to say. Your voice matters! You can have an **Independent Advocacy Worker** to help you to make sure people listen to your views and uphold your rights.

They don't work for anyone else except you. They won't tell you what to do or give advice, they can help you to know about your rights, get answers to any questions or worries you have and make sure you can take part when others are making decisions about your life. They can also help you raise a concern or make a complaint if things are not right.

If you would like an Independent Advocacy Worker...

Advocacy is **available** and **free** for everyone in residential care on a cross-border placement in Scotland.

Speak to the people looking after you about getting your own **Independent Advocacy Worker** as soon as possible.

You can also find information online at www.hearings-advocacy.com.