



One Minute Guide



Coventry City Council

Children and Parents Rights

Introduction

This guide helps to explain your rights and to know why you have someone working with you and how they can help you and your family.

In Coventry we believe everybody should have their views heard and must be involved when decisions are being made about their lives. This guide explains your rights and how you can participate.

What do we mean by participation?

Participation is all about you being able to share how you feel about your life and what you think should happen.

We are also interested in understanding what you think about the way we are helping you. By you having your say we can find out what children and young people in Coventry need. This will help us to provide services that reflect the needs of children, young people and their families in Coventry and that those services are easy to access.

Family Rights Organisation can be found here: <https://www.frg.org.uk/>

Children Rights: Coventry Children's Services believes that you have the right to be informed and should know:

- why you have a worker
- what's working well in your family
- why people might be worried about you
- what needs to happen to make things safe for you
- that during meetings, you and your family, worker and other professionals will talk about:
- what needs to happen to make things better and
- what support you might need
- what was discussed in the meeting if you did not attend
- what decisions were made and why

Children Rights: You have the right to be heard:

- Your wishes and feelings should be included in conversations about your life
- You can attend meetings to discuss your views
- Your worker should keep you informed about what is happening and why
- Your worker should let you know when meetings are taking place and should meet with you beforehand to see if you would like to attend
- If you do not wish to attend but want your wishes and feelings heard, then you can choose to share your views with your worker or another adult who you trust such as a teacher or mentor at school. You can also ask for an advocate. They can attend the meeting for you and be your voice in the meeting.

You can contact the Participation Service

If you need advice about sharing your views or you don't feel that you are being listened to; you can contact us, and we will support you to change this. Contact us by Email: Voices@coventry.gov.uk | Tel: 07946195839 | Tel: 024 7697 1841



Parental rights and responsibility

Parental rights

- The right to respect for their family life
- The right to have their children educated according to their religious and philosophical convictions
- The right to not be discriminated against when exercising their parental rights
- The right to be updated on your child's well-being and progress even if you are not living with them
- The right to be included, informed and updated
- The right to complain if you're unhappy with the service
- The right to be heard

This relates to **both parents** when both have Parental Responsibility

Parental responsibility means being responsible for:

- Your child's wellbeing
- Looking after your child
- Feeding and clothing your child
- Making decisions about their schooling
- Deciding whether to consent to medical treatment
- Representing them in legal proceedings
- Making decisions about where to live
- Making decisions about their religious upbringing

Whilst children's services are working alongside your family it is in the interests of the child that both parents fully engage with the process, when safe to do so.

Consent: For Coventry Children's Services to be able to fully support you and your family we will ask for your consent to collect, store and share personal information (consent form is in this pack).

There may be times when we must share confidential information without your consent, but this will only happen if:

- We believe there is a safeguarding issue where someone is being harmed or at risk of harm
- We are required, by law, to share the information

All Coventry City Council Staff, who work with you and your family, must abide by strict rules, laid down by government regarding how they collect, store and share the information you provide. More information can be found about this at https://www.coventry.gov.uk/info/31/children_and_families/3245/childrens_services_privacy_notice