

# Going to a Joint Investigative Interview Information Booklet



**POLICE**  
**SCOTLAND**  
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## **What is it?**

A joint investigative interview is a visually recorded interview of a child and there can be various reasons as to why a child is invited to take part. This may take place due to the concerns that the child has been hurt or harmed, seen something that has happened or they may also have told someone about something that happened to them. It is a structured interview which allows the child to freely discuss what happened.

## **Does the child have to go?**

They do not have to go to the interview but the interview gives the child an opportunity to express what has happened to them or what they have seen, which is also important to us. This may also impact on how any investigation is to proceed.

## **Where will it be?**

Bespoke rooms and facilities will generally be used for interviews. The interview rooms will be safe and comfortable providing a space that you can speak privately with interviewers, there will also be a break room for the support person.

## **Who will be there?**

When you arrive the interviewers will be there to meet the child. There will be one social worker and one police officer (who will not be in uniform). The child will have someone they trust there for support and it is important that the child feels as comfortable as possible.

## **What will happen?**

The child will be given an opportunity to see the room and interviewers will answer any questions they may have. The room is private with equipment to record the interview.

## **During the interview**

There are a number of stages of the interview, these are in place to ensure that the child is comfortable and to show their understanding of the stages. This also allows the interviewers to assess their understanding and capability of communication. The child will be given the opportunity to have breaks throughout, either instigated by them or the interviewers.

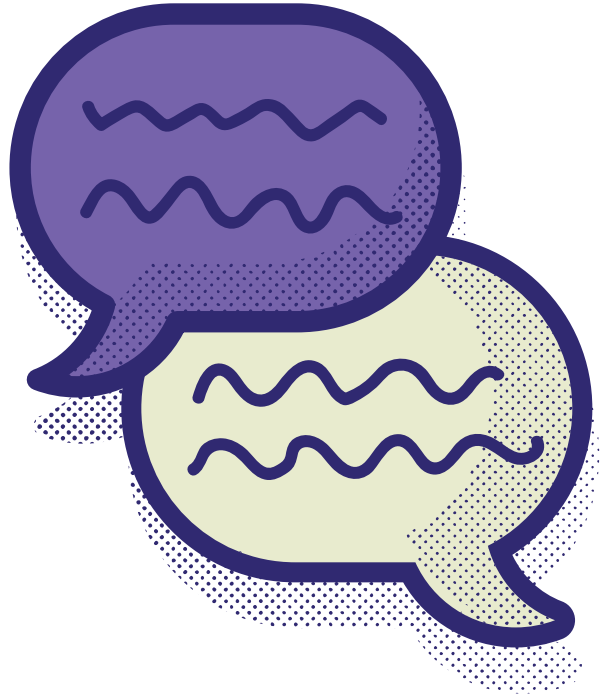
The interviewers will tell the child their names and explain their roles and the child will be asked their name and what they like to be referred to as.

They will build a rapport by asking the child what their interests are and what they like to do.

Ground rules are used for any child during an interview. It includes telling interviewers that they don't know the answer to something, not guessing and the importance of telling the truth.

The child will be asked about something they have enjoyed doing. This helps the child practice for the substantive part of the interview.

The substantive part of the interview is for the child to talk about why they are there, what has happened to them or what they have seen. The interview is taken at the child's pace and no pressure is put on the child to talk if they don't want to. This takes the form of a free narrative for the child and not a question and answer or yes/no format.



Interviewers will chat to the child about a neutral topic at the end to ensure they feel comfortable when leaving.

### **What happens after the interview?**

Once the interview is complete the interviewer will leave contact details. The child can ask any questions, however, the interviewer may not have the answers at that time.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Why is the interview recorded?

Recording the interview means that, should the investigation proceed to court, the child may not have attend, however, this cannot be guaranteed. It is important that the child is aware that what they say may lead to a Police and/ or Social Work Child Protection investigation. This can then result in a report being submitted to the Procurator Fiscal with the potential for it proceeding to court.

## Can the child leave the interview if they want?

Yes, the child can leave the interview if they want, either choosing not to continue or to have a break. They just need to inform the interviewers.

## Can the child bring their support person into the room while being interviewed?

There will only be the child and the interviewers in the room. It is important that the child is spoken to by themselves to speak freely and without any potential distractions. However, the child can have as many breaks as they wish.

## How long will the interview take?

Every situation is unique and the length of time for each interview will be different. This can also be determined by the child, should they wish to stop or take further breaks.



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