

Seen, Heard, Respected?

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CHILDLAW

Seen, Heard, Respected?

- About Clan Childlaw
- Access to Justice and Lawyers for Children
- Current Issues
- Opportunities



Clan Childlaw

Clan Childlaw stands with children and young people when they stand up for their rights.



Clan Childlaw

01

**Standing with
others who help
children**

02

**Standing out
through the
impact of our work**

03

**Standing for
change**

Clan Childlaw

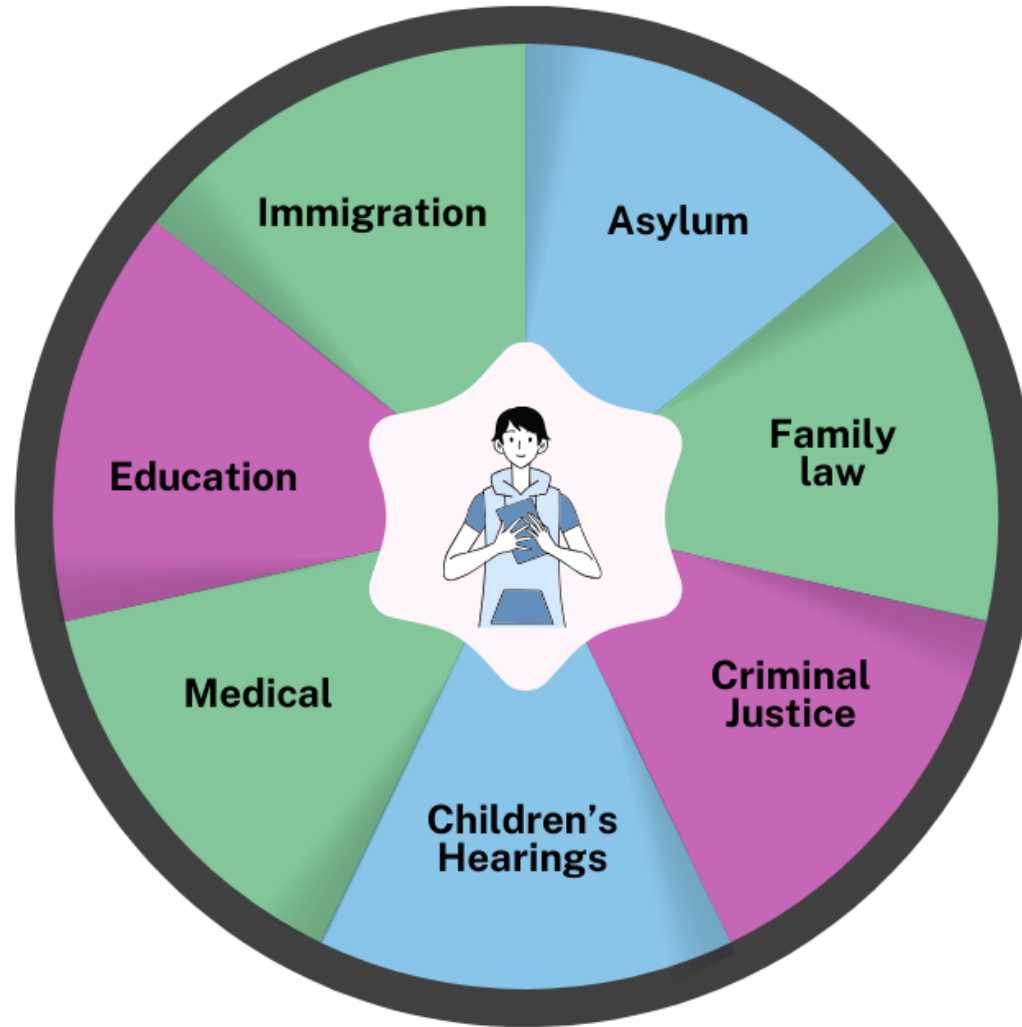
- Legal representation
- Helpline
- Advance Legal Policy
- Learning and Development
- Strategic litigation





Scotland's children should have access to lawyers that are experts in working with children as well as being experts in the law

When might a child need a lawyer?





lawyers for children & young people

2 Years

4 Years

6 Years

8 Years

10 Years

12 Years



Medical Profession

General Medical Practice
Doctor

General Pediatrics
Pediatrician

Specialist Pediatrics
Pediatric Specialist

Legal Profession



Legal Qualification
Lawyer

Zero Requirement
Lawyer for
Children

Zero Requirement
Specialist Area of
Law

The Promise Scotland

**“There should be further
consideration of how lawyers can be
more acutely attuned to the
specialist nature of the Children’s
Hearings”**

**Hearings for Children:
The Redesign Report**

UK Child Law Network and World-wide expert advisory group

We believe all children who come into contact with the law have a right to specialist legal representation, advice and information to enable them to realise their rights.

Lawyers for Children need to know about:

- Trauma and Child Development
- Child Protection
- Communicating with Children
- Children's Rights – Frameworks
- What that means in practice

What does a
good lawyer for
children look
like?



Alright? – A film by Clan Childlaw



lawyers for
children & young people



What does good legal support for children look like?



Dr Claire Lightowler – Improving Legal Support for Children and Young People in Conflict with the Law

- Communicate in a range of ways which best suits each child
- Take time to **build a relationship to support their understanding**
- **Support and empower the child**
- Be **trauma-informed** and based on a good understanding of **child development** and **children's rights**.

Law Society of Scotland Lawyers for Children Certification Course

Clan Childlaw Membership

- networking model for children's lawyers in Scotland
- access to practical resources and events to share learning

Current Issues

- Right to Family
- Right to Fair and Equal Treatment
- Right to a Home
- Right to be Heard



Seen, Heard, Respected?

- Unsuitable accommodation
- Deprivation of Liberty Orders
- Offence grounds, lawyers and disclosure
- Brothers and sisters

The UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024



The UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024

It is unlawful for a public authority to act... in a way which is incompatible with UNCRC

- A public authority reporting duty
- Enhanced powers for the Children's Commissioner

The UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024

What is in Scope?

Act of the Scottish Parliament or Scottish Statutory Instrument

Who?

Do NOT need a “victim” to start legal proceedings

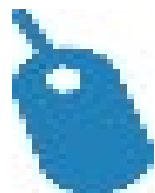
The UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024



Seen, Heard, Respected?

- Child-centred lawyers
- Suitable accommodation
- Deprivation of Liberty Orders
- Offence grounds, lawyers and disclosure
- Rights of brothers and sisters
- Opportunities

Thank you!



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