

NOTES



CONTACT NUMBERS

LOCAL COUNCIL

Duty Social Work

Mon-Fri, 9am to 5pm:
(for children) - 744420
(for adults) 744468

Outside office hours:

01595 695611

POLICE SCOTLAND

Tel: 101

(In an emergency, dial 999)

PHYSICAL PUNISHMENT AND YOU

Questions and answers for parents and guardians



On 7th November 2020, the law on physical punishment is going to change.

From that date, physical punishment will be against the law in Scotland.



What is physical punishment?

Physical punishment has lots of meanings. It can mean smacking, skelping, slapping and pinching. But there isn't a set list.

What's happening on 7th November 2020?

On 7 November 2020, the law on physical punishment is going to change. From that date, physical punishment will be against the law in Scotland.



Is this about all physical punishment?

Yes, it's about all physical punishment. Physical punishment has lots of meanings. But from 7 November, none of it will be allowed

Why is the change happening?

Research in Scotland has shown that physical punishment affects children's wellbeing. The law in Scotland has always protected adults from physical assault; this new piece of legislation will extend that same protection to all children and young people up to the age of 18.

Who can I talk to about this?

Parenting is hard work and no-one has all the answers. If you need support or advice, on this, or any other matter related to raising your children, please reach out to your midwife, health visitor, your child's school, or call Parentline on:

08000 28 22 33. (Free)

More information and advice is on their website at:

<https://www.children1st.org.uk>

Do I need to do anything?

These questions and answers are just to let you know about this change. If you want more information, go to the government website at:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/physical-punishment-and-discipline-of-children-how-the-law-is-changing>

Who decided to make this change?

In Scotland, changes to the law are made by the Scottish Parliament.

