

[REDACTED]

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**From:**

**Sent:**

[REDACTED]  
22 March 2016 16:51

**To:**

[REDACTED]@socialworkscotland.org

**Cc:**

**Subject:**

[REDACTED]  
Child welfare (bar reporters. Instructions to reporters. Guide for litigants

**Attachments:**

[REDACTED]  
Child Welfare Reporters - instructions to reporters - first edition - March 2016 - PDF version.pdf; Guide to the Child Welfare report for litigants - first edition - March 2016 - PDF version.pdf

**Dear** [REDACTED]

1. The Scottish Government (SG) has chaired a working group on Child Welfare (bar) Reporters. These provide advice to sheriffs and judges in contact and residence cases. More details of the working group are at <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Justice/law/17867/reporters>
2. The SG understands that most child welfare reporters (around 90%) are lawyers, generally family law specialists. However, some reporters, particularly in some parts of Scotland, may be social workers. Therefore, you may be interested in the outcomes of the Working Group.
3. New court rules are in place:  
<http://www.scottishciviljusticecouncil.gov.uk/news/2015/10/21/new-court-rules-for-child-welfare-reporters>
4. The group has prepared instructions to reporters and a guide for litigants. These are above.
5. The Scottish Government will write shortly to the Sheriffs Principal, and the Lord President of the Court of Session, on the qualifications and training which should be required before being appointed to the lists of those who can act as child welfare reporters.
6. The Scottish Government intends to prepare a guide for children on child welfare reports.
7. The Scottish Government intends to monitor closely the outcomes in this area.

[REDACTED]  
Scottish Government: Family and Property  
[REDACTED]