

CHILDREN POLICY

A child is a person under the age of 18. On rare occasions, a child may be referred to FRU for representation. If the potential client is a child, you should always speak to the relevant Legal Officer before accepting instructions. You should ensure that the child has a competent adult to give instructions on their behalf.

If you have any concerns about child abuse, you should speak to the relevant Legal Officer. FRU representatives have a duty of confidentiality, but this duty is overridden if there are genuine concerns about child abuse. When safeguarding children, there may be a need to disclose confidential information to someone from another organisation, such as the police or social services. FRU will only do this when the law allows, and when disclosure will help its clients, or prevent a crime. If confidential information is to be shared, this should be done where possible with the child's agreement, if the child is competent to give permission. If this is not given, assessment of their best interests may still justify disclosure, and issues involving a wider or public interest may justify overriding their views.

Any information shared will be on a "need to know" basis, i.e. only information that is directly relevant to any investigation, and the minimum necessary to achieve the objective of protection of children.

Adopted 2013