



Sheriff Principal
C. D. Turnbull

Sheriff Principal's Chambers
Sheriff Court of Glasgow and Strathkelvin
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Donald Reid
Dean
The Royal Faculty of Procurators in Glasgow

BY E-MAIL

29 January 2021

Dear Mr Reid

Child Welfare Hearings

I am writing to you to address what would appear to be a serious misconception on the part of certain solicitors conducting child welfare hearings.

It has now been asserted, on more than one occasion, that the courts are, in some way, precluding the participation in child welfare hearings by the parties. In so far as Glasgow Sheriff Court is concerned, that is simply inaccurate.

Whilst we routinely excuse the attendance of parties at child welfare hearings, in light of the ongoing pandemic, that does not prevent a party participating in such a hearing, should they wish to do so. If they wish to do so, it is the responsibility of the solicitor to provide the necessary contact details to the court, well in advance of the hearing.

I have written in similar terms to the President of the Glasgow Bar Association.

Yours sincerely

Sheriff Principal Craig Turnbull
Sheriffdom of Glasgow and Strathkelvin