

Name

... Sheriff Court

Address

F9.1

Case Ref:

To ...

A sheriff (sometimes called a judge) is a person who makes important decisions for children and families. You have been sent this letter because a sheriff will need to make a decision about you. [Your Dad wants to have you to stay with him more often] and the sheriff has to decide about that.

The sheriff will want to know what you think about that. You will soon get a "What I Think" form. You have a right to tell the sheriff what you think, but you do not have to tell the sheriff what you think if you do not want to. What you think is very important, but it is the sheriff who will make a decision about what is best for you. Sometimes this might be different from what you would like to happen.

The sheriff might not share exactly what you have written or said, but the sheriff has to think about this and explain in court what you would like to happen.

If you are not sure what to do, you can show this letter to an adult you trust. If you want to know more about what will happen next, you might get free help from a lawyer or you can check with the Scottish Child Law Centre on their free advice telephone line on 0800 328 8970 or 0300 3301421 (from a mobile) or with Clan Childlaw on their free legal information service on 0808 129 0522.

If there's anything you are worried or upset about and don't know what to do, you can get in touch with a ChildLine counsellor who will listen and offer you support. You can phone ChildLine free on 0800 1111.

Name

... Sheriff Court

Address

F9.2

Case Ref:

To ...

You might remember that you got a letter about this a little while ago. A sheriff (sometimes called a judge) is a person who makes important decisions for children and families. You have been sent this letter because a sheriff will need to make a decision about you. [Your Dad wants to have you to stay with him more often] and the sheriff has to decide about that.

The sheriff now wants to know what you think about that. You have a right to tell the sheriff what you think, but you do not have to tell the sheriff what you think if you do not want to. What you think is very important, but it is the sheriff who will make a decision about what is best for you. Sometimes this might be different from what you would like to happen. With this letter, there is a "What I Think" form that you can use if you want to.

The sheriff might not share exactly what you have written or said, but the sheriff has to think about this and explain in court what you would like to happen.

If you are not sure what to do, you can show this letter to an adult you trust. If you want to know more about what will happen next, you might get free help from a lawyer or you can check with the Scottish Child Law Centre on their free advice telephone line on 0800 328 8970 or 0300 3301421 (from a mobile) or with Clan Childlaw on their free legal information service on 0808 129 0522.

If there's anything you are worried or upset about and don't know what to do, you can get in touch with a ChildLine counsellor who will listen and offer you support. You can phone ChildLine free on 0800 1111.

If you want to tell the sheriff what you think, you can use the What I Think form sent with this letter. You can say anything you like. There is no right or wrong answer. Please send the form back to the sheriff when you have filled it in. We have sent you an envelope, and it does not need a stamp. Just put the form in the envelope and put the envelope in a post box.

If what you think changes, you can contact a lawyer or call the phone numbers for the Scottish Child Law Centre or Clan Childlaw.

# What I Think

Name

... Sheriff Court

Address

Case Ref:

Email Address

Mobile Number

You can put this What I Think form in the envelope and send it back to the sheriff. You don't need a stamp.

How do you feel about [seeing your Dad] just now?



Good ☐



In the middle ☐



Not good ☐

If you would like to tell the sheriff more about this, use the box below

Is there anything else you would like to happen?

Would you prefer to say what you think in a different way?

Yes

☐

No

☐

What different way would you like to say what you think?

In the letter with this form, there are Freephone numbers for the Scottish Child Law Centre and Clan Childlaw, if you want some other ideas.

If an adult has helped you with this What I Think form, please write their name and how you know them here:\_\_\_\_\_

Thank You

The sheriff will decide what happens next.