

Shelter's Children's Legal Service

For agencies or organisations
wishing to refer cases to us



Shelter

Our Children's Legal Service is a specialist service, based within Shelter's legal team in London. We represent young people, children and families with housing problems.

Putting children at the heart of housing and homelessness decisions, we advise and represent our clients while also campaigning to improve the policy and practice of dealing with homeless or poorly housed families with children. Where possible, we will use the law to change the law.

What we do

We represent our clients at all stages of the housing process, and are particularly keen to take on cases where we can make the most difference for people – cases involving issues Shelter can campaign on and those that could become test cases. We cannot accept direct referrals from members of the public, but we take referrals from any agency working with families or children who need legal representation concerning their living arrangements.

We can offer your agency:

■ **Legally aided casework**

We can deal with particularly complex cases, or those involving litigation.

A large part of our work is taking cases to court, and this can include:

- county court appeals in homelessness applications
- judicial review proceedings
- possession proceedings
- complex test cases.

■ **Pro bono casework**

Due to support from Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP, we can take on some pro bono cases for people who are not eligible for legal aid.

■ **Consultancy and support**

Our legal team is experienced in supporting advisers, so we can provide your advisers with one-off or ongoing advice when dealing with any case affecting children.


If you have a particular issue in your area or with one of your cases that could feed into Shelter's policy and campaigning work, please let us know.

The sort of cases we take on

Shelter's Children's Legal Service has the greatest scope for changing the law and making a real difference to the lives of children in the following cases:

- Homeless 16- and 17-year-olds, independent of the family.
- 'Safety net' cases, in which the council does not owe a full housing duty (eg housing options following an intentional homelessness decision or if the family is not eligible for assistance due to their immigration status).
- The housing needs of children with disabilities, including advocating for suitable housing and necessary aids and adaptations.
- Ground 8 possession cases, where possession is sought on a mandatory ground when rent arrears have built up.

However, we will of course consider any case that involves children.



'It's good to know that an organisation like yours exists, which fights for the under-privileged. You give us a platform to voice our pain, and dreams. Thank you very much.'

Adult member of family helped
by Shelter's Children's
Legal Service

Do you have a case you would like to refer to us?

If there's a case you believe we could help with we would very much like to hear from you. We can't promise to take on every case, particularly at times when the level of demand for our service is high, but we will always be of help where we can.

To find out more or to refer a case to us, please contact our Administrator Holly Padfield-Paine on 0344 515 2156 or email holly_padfieldpaine@shelter.org.uk

Until there's a home for everyone

Shelter believes everyone should have a home.

We help people find and keep a home.

We campaign for decent housing for all.

Contact us

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Unit 13 City Forum
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Telephone: 0344 515 2156

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Important

This service is for agencies or organisations wishing to refer cases only. We cannot take direct calls from members of the public.

shelter.org.uk

Registered charity in England and Wales (263710)
and in Scotland (SC002327)

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