

INFORMATION SHARING DUTY

Quick guide for practitioners

Applies to scenarios arising from 30 September 2026



THE PRACTICE RULE

Share information if it will promote the welfare or safety of a child.

The duty supports existing safeguarding procedures. It does not replace them or depend on local service continuum of needs.

Use these three tests

1 RELEVANCE

Does the information have a bearing on safeguarding or promoting the child’s welfare?

2 MAY FACILITATE

Could sharing reasonably help the recipient assess need or risk, make a decision, provide support or take action?

3 DETRIMENT

Would sharing be more detrimental to a child than not sharing? Can any risk be reduced?

WHEN THE DUTY CAN APPLY

- If we or others hold relevant information which would –
 - Promote the welfare of a child
 - Help to assess risk
 - Inform decision making including around the provision of services and/or safeguarding interventions.

It applies to all children and individuals linked to them

Practitioners are no longer primarily asking:

- "Am I allowed to share this?"

The expectation is that relevant information should be shared unless there is a clear, child-focused reason not to do so. They should instead be asking:

"Is there a reason why I should **not** share this?"

SHARE WELL AND RECORD

- ✓ **Necessary and proportionate** Share only what is relevant for the safeguarding purpose.
- ✓ **Accurate and clear** Separate fact from opinion and correct known inaccuracies.
- ✓ **Secure and accountable** Use approved routes; record what was shared, with whom, why and the rationale.
- ✓ **Prompt and transparent** Avoid delay; inform the child or family where appropriate and safe.

CONSENT AND TRUST

Consent is not required to share under the duty. This is different from consent to receive a service or treatment, and from duties of confidentiality.

Be open about why, what and with whom information will be shared, unless doing so would increase risk or is impracticable.

RARE EXCEPTION

If sharing would be more detrimental to a child than not sharing, limit only what is necessary, consider mitigations, record the decision and review it.