

Safeguarding children and yourself

- If a child discloses that they are being abused you must listen carefully, make a note of exactly what they said and then report the information immediately, by telephone, to the relevant Team listed below.
- If a child has special needs, there may be physical or emotional behavioural issues which demand special support; whilst reasonable verbal reprimands are permitted, minimal physical action should only be taken that is proportionate, reasonable and absolutely necessary.
- In exceptional circumstances and if a child is abusive and endangering a driver or themselves, then a driver should stop the vehicle and call for assistance from the responsible parent or adult booking the journey.

Allegations

If an allegation is made against you then you should obtain the following BSCB leaflet: [Employee leaflet](#)

If you are concerned that another driver may be acting in an inappropriate way towards a child you must immediately contact the relevant Teams below.

Concerned about a child?

If you have a child protection concern about a child then you should contact the Designated Person for Child Protection if the organisation has one (e.g. in a school) or contact Buckinghamshire County Council Children and Families team:

First Response Team 0845 4600001
Local Rate 01296 383962

Out of Hours (Emergency Duty Team)
0800 999 7677

For more information about safeguarding children, or Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board, please visit www.bucks-lscb.org.uk



**Safeguarding Information
for Drivers of Private Hire
and Taxi Drivers when
transporting children and
young people**

October 2017

Introduction

As part of your job you may have to transport children under the age of 18. This leaflet is aimed at providing some basic advice and giving links to sources for further information.

Basic Requirements

All private hire and taxi drivers MUST undergo an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Services (DBS) check and hold a valid Private Hire or Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence, issued by the local District Council. If you do not have one you should contact:

Aylesbury Vale District Council
www.aylesburyvale.gov.uk

Chiltern District Council
www.chiltern.gov.uk

South Bucks District Council
www.southbucks.gov.uk

Wycombe District Council
www.wycombe.gov.uk

Your employer

If you are an employed driver, the company you work for may have its own requirements and procedures on safeguarding issues - it is essential that you ask for them and make sure you read and understand them. For example, all drivers working on Buckinghamshire County Council's contracts are issued with comprehensive training and guidance.

You

As a driver, it is in your interest to follow safeguarding advice to prevent problems from arising and know how to deal with issues if they do arise, how to report concerns, and to be aware of what happens if an allegation is made. Employers of drivers need to know that too, and how to deal with and report allegations.

Transporting a child under the age of 18

When asked to carry a child on their own, ask the responsible parent or adult booking the journey if the child :

- has behavioural needs that may require special assistance for their own personal safety or that of a driver?
- uses any medication, or has any health conditions which may effect them during the journey (e.g. asthma, epilepsy, diabetes)? If so, is the child able to self-medicate? You should always feel comfortable about the child you are transporting. Do not take a child if you have concerns.
- has any disabilities which require additional support, such as assistance entering or exiting a vehicle?

Advice for drivers

- An operator (if applicable) should provide parents and/or carers with the details of the car and driver transporting a child.
- Seat belts, or other suitable restraints (depending on a child's physical needs), should be used and wheelchairs and occupants (if appropriate) properly secured.
- You should never touch a child unnecessarily.
- Care must be taken when assisting a child to enter and exit the vehicle, or when fastening a seat belt.
- Where possible, children should exit a vehicle on a pavement away from traffic, and should not be allowed to cross a busy road unsupervised.
- You must avoid being over friendly with any children transported; you should not seek to find out personal information about a child or share any personal information about yourself.
- You must never exchange any personal contact details with the child, never communicate with them privately for example through social media and you must never photograph a child.