

(23) Parents: What the law says

Local authorities, schools and nurseries have to comply with a number of different education and anti-discrimination laws to ensure a child with a disability, such as epilepsy, is supported in an effective way.

For up to date information on education legislation, contact Enquire, the Scottish advice service for additional support for learning, www.enquire.org.uk, 0345 123 2303.

If you experience problems with your local authority / social work department, contact your local citizens advice bureau.

Equality Act 2010

This act makes it unlawful for local authorities and educational bodies to discriminate against a child for a reason relating to the child's disability such as epilepsy. It specifies that:

- ✧ A child should not be treated less favourably because of their disability without justification
- ✧ A local authority or educational body should make reasonable adjustments that includes a duty to provide auxiliary aids and services

You can find out more about the Equality Act and how it may apply to a child affected by epilepsy on the Equality and Human Rights Commission's website www.equalityhumanrights.com.

Further information and advice

Always seek legal or expert advice if you / your child experience any problems. The following may be able to help further:

- ✧ **Equality Advisory and Support Service** – www.equalityadvisoryservice.com, 0808 800 0082, this helpline assists individuals on issues of equality and human rights
- ✧ **ACAS** – 0300 123 1100, www.acas.org.uk for free and impartial information and advice on all aspects of work place relations and employment law, if your child experiences work related issues
- ✧ **Enquire** – 0345 123 2303, www.enquire.org.uk for information and advice on additional support for learning
- ✧ **Govan Law Centre – Education Law Unit** – www.govanlawcentre.org. This law unit covers the whole of Scotland and is Scotland's expert legal education resource. You can contact them on 0141 440 2503.
- ✧ **Scottish Child Law Centre** – www.sclc.org.uk, 0131 667 6333 (the number to phone if you are the parent or carer of a child), or freephone 0800 328 8970 (the number to phone if you are a young person / child under 21) giving advice on any aspects of Scottish law in relation to children and young people, such as education and social work.
- ✧ **Any solicitor** – The Scottish Child Law Centre (above) can help you find a solicitor that practices in family law, child law, or education law. The Law Society of Scotland's database will also allow you to search for an appropriate solicitor, www.lawscot.org.uk, Tel 0131 226 7411.

- ✦ **Citizens Advice Direct** – 0808 800 9060, or call your local Citizens Advice Bureau. This includes advice on benefits.
- ✦ **Welfare rights service** – for benefits advice. Your local authority can give you details of your local welfare rights service. Epilepsy Scotland also has a Welfare Rights Service, which can be contacted on 0141 427 4911.