



Physical punishment & you: questions and answers

What's
physical
punishment?

Physical punishment has lots of meanings.

It can mean smacking, skelping, slapping and pinching.

But there isn't a set list.

What will
happen on 7
November
2020?

On 7 November 2020, the law on physical punishment
is going to change.

From that date, physical punishment will be against
the law in Scotland.

“Law” just means rules. It's a special name for rules for a country.

This law change means that physical punishment won't be allowed in Scotland.

Who
decided to
make this
change?

In Scotland, changes to the law are made by
the Scottish Parliament.

The Scottish Parliament has 129 members.

It's their job to talk about the law.

And they decide if they want to make changes to the law.

So the Scottish Parliament agreed to this change in the law.

Is this about
all physical
punishment?

Yes, it's about all physical punishment.

Physical punishment has lots of meanings.

But from 7 November, none of it will be allowed



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Why is the
change
happening?

Physical punishment isn't good for you.

So this is about making you safe and happy.

But lots of people have already stopped
using physical punishment.

So the change is actually already happening!.

Do I need to
do anything?

These questions and answers are just to
let you know about this change.

The change is all about you.

So we wanted to let you know about it.

Who can I
talk to about
this?

If you're worried, it can be good to talk.

You can talk to an adult that you trust.

That person might be a teacher.

Or a nurse or police officer.

Or you can call Childline for free on 0800 1111.