

The 7 Golden Rules for Safe Information Sharing in Safeguarding.

Rule 1: Data Protection Laws Are Not a Barrier

Data regulations are not meant to stop us from sharing important information for safety reasons. When there are serious worries about a child's safety, we have to prioritise child protection.

Rule 2: Be Open and Transparent

Inform individuals what data you hold, why it may be shared, and who needs access unless doing so increases risks. Obtain consent when possible.

Rule 3: Seek Advice When Unsure

If you have a problem to share, talk to your manager, safeguarding lead, or other advisors without mentioning specific people/names. They can guide you.

Rule 4: Share with Consent When Possible

Respect someone's choice if they can decide for themselves not to share information. But remember, the rules still allow sharing without asking if there's a real risk of serious harm.

Rule 5: Balance Safety and Privacy.

When you're deciding what information to share for safety, think about the consequences of sharing and not sharing. Consider how it affects the situation.

Rule 6: Share information when needed, just enough, and at the right time, securely.

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Rule 7: Document the Sharing Process and Rationale

Record what was shared, with who, why, how, and when to evidence appropriate information handling protocols were followed.