



Professional Disagreement and Escalation Record

Practice tool

Professional disagreement means practitioners or agencies reach different conclusions about risk, threshold, responsibility or action. Escalation means referring the unresolved issue to someone with authority to decide or act.

Person / concern / practitioner / organisation / date

1. Why escalation is required

☐ Immediate or increasing risk	☐ Threshold disagreement
☐ Referral declined	☐ Action delayed or incomplete
☐ No coordinating agency/professional	☐ Information not shared/considered
☐ Repeated closure or deferral	☐ Person/family not kept informed

Evidence, previous decisions and why the current response is insufficient

2. Escalation action

Level / recipient	Issue and requested response	Deadline / outcome
Practitioner / manager		
Senior or partnership escalation		
Further formal escalation if unresolved		

3. Resolution and safety

Agreed decision, rationale, responsible owner and how the person will be updated

If unresolved: interim safety plan, next escalation point and review time

Professional disagreement is not resolved by recording that agencies hold different views. The risk, legal duties, evidence and requested decision must be considered by someone with authority to resolve or escalate it.