Decision Tree:
Should I use AI for This Task?

THE ALLIANCE
FOR CHILD PROTECTION
IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

A practical decision tree to help child protection practitioners assess whether AI is appropriate for a task, identify potential risks, and determine the safeguards needed before proceeding.

Answer each question in order.
Complete the Data Checklist before entering anything.

Question | Restricted | Conditional | Proceed (with checks)

STEP 1

Does the task involve data that identifies a specific child?

Names, case refs, locations, family details, allegations, or any combination that identifies a child.

YES →

RESTRICTED
Do not use AI with this information.

- Remove identifying details, then go to Step 2. Or do the task without AI.
- Use AI only on anonymised content or blank templates.
  No exceptions.

NO ↓

STEP 2

Does the task require information you cannot independently verify?

For example, current referral pathways, legal or medical guidance, available services, or contact details.

YES →

CONDITIONAL

Use AI as a starting point only.
Verify every fact against an independent, current, reliable source before using the information.
If you cannot verify it, do not rely on the AI output.

NO ↓

STEP 3

Has your organisation approved AI tools for this task type?

NO →

PROCEED WITH CAUTION
Use a tool you judge to be low-risk.

- Assume it has no enterprise data protections.
- **Complete Data + Verification Checklists**
- **Record which tool and why, and tell your AI focal point.**

YES ↓

STEP 4

Will AI output directly inform a decision about a child's safety, well-being, rights, or referral pathway?

YES ↓

HIGH STAKES: HUMAN REVIEW REQUIRED
Complete the Human Risk, Data and Verification Checklists before acting.

- Treat AI output as reference only.
- Your professional judgement decides.
- **Get a second opinion from a colleague or supervisor.**

NO ↓

STANDARD: PROCEED WITH CARE
Complete the Verification Checklist before using the output.

- Read the full output critically.
- Check facts against an independent, current source.
- Judge the content, not how polished it sounds
- Apply your professional judgement.
- Record your use of AI.

CORE PRINCIPLE

Never act on an AI output about a child's safety, welfare, rights, or referral without review by a qualified professional, however confident the output sounds. Professional judgement remains your responsibility.