GENERAL GUIDES FOR TAKING IN A GARMENT

1. Use safety pins appropriate to the fabric type eg. a small safety pin for a fine fabric. This reduces the possibility of holes being left in the fabric from the pin when it is removed.

2. A line of safety pins should ultimately run in-line with the original stitched seam. The garment should be worn with right side facing ensuring the pins will then be on the outside of the garment.

3. The garment should be "pinned in" along both sides - do not worry if both sides are not exactly the same as this will be corrected when being altered and stitched.

4. Ensure any clothing to be worn under the garment being taken in, is the correct one. For example, in the case of a dress, ensure the exact underwear is being worn.

5. If the garment is for a special occasion (ie. wedding), take a "selfie" or ask a friend to assist in ensuring back and front views of the garment have not altered their '*design line*'. Ultimately this is most noticeably visible when seen in a photo!

6. Stand straight and test the new fit after all necessary pins have been used - try not to put too much strain on any pinned seams as the pins can then mark and/or distort the fabric if too tight.

7. Sometimes it may be essential (especially if taking in trousers or a tight fitting garment) to try sitting and/or moving around to verify that the new hip and/or leg width is correct. Specifically for lower leg trouser width reductions, ensure when removing the trousers, your feet can be pulled through the new width.

8. In the case of a shorter than average person, sometimes instead of "taking in" a garment, it's a different adjustment such as "lifting at the shoulders or waistline". If this is done, often the garment will have a much better fit and then may need nothing taken in. If this is the case, then it is this seam that would be taken in and then there may be an alteration to the ultimate garment length.