



Child Advocate

For children and young people

What is a child advocate?

Child advocates are lawyers who work with children and young people whose families are involved with Child Safety.

It's up to you if you want a child advocate referral. There needs to be a legal matter you need help with.

A child advocate can help speak up for you when certain decisions are being made that affect you.

Child advocates can let the adults making the decisions know your views and wishes, even if others don't agree with what you want.

Child advocates are independent. This means they don't work for Child Safety or the Court.

What will a child advocate do?

If you have a child advocate, they will:

- ask for information about you from Child Safety (or others for example, Education Qld), so they can understand your situation and give you the right information
- meet with you to explain what they do
- talk to you about your views and wishes (what you want to happen)
- talk to you about how they can support you to be part of the decision-making process (if you want to), and how to review a decision that has already been made about you
- talk with Child Safety and other stakeholders to make sure your rights are being met.

A child advocate can help you with these types of legal matters:

- When a court process is happening and you want to have your say about your care arrangements (who makes decisions for you, where you live and the time you spend with your family).
- When Child Safety has made a decision about where you live or the time you spend with your family (contact), and you do not agree and would like to challenge the decision at a tribunal called QCAT.
- When your school has made a decision about your education, (for example exclusion, charge-related suspension, or a cancellation/refusal to enrol).
- To work with your youth justice lawyer in helping them understand your care history (in some cases).

Want a child advocate?

A child advocate will work with you if you have a legal matter we can help with and if you agree to a referral. A child advocate, Child Safety, your community visitor, or another person can make a referral for you.

Or you can ask for help by calling us yourself.

You could put a circle around which problem you need help with (see list above).

When you sign below, it means someone has told you about the referral and you want a child advocate.

It's ok to change your mind at any time. Just tell us!

Name of young person:.....

Signature: Date:

Contact us

T 1300 653 187

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Acknowledgement of Country

The Office of the Public Guardian acknowledges and pays our respects to the Traditional Custodians over the lands, seas and waterways throughout the state of Queensland in which we work and live and pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

Translation

If you need translation services, contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450.