

# How child advocates can help

Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) child advocates are lawyers who protect the rights of children and young people.

## How we can help

Child advocates work with community visitors and can help a child or young person by:

- providing information and advice about legal issues they are concerned about.
- helping the child or young person resolve disputes and to make complaints if they have been treated unfairly or are unhappy with a decision made about their time in the child protection system.
- supporting the child or young person in legal meetings with Child Safety (or any other agency) to make sure that their needs are being met and their views and wishes are being heard.
- supporting the child or young person to have their views and wishes expressed in a court or tribunal.
- speaking for the child or young person in court or tribunals.

## What we will do

- Express the child or young person's views and wishes to the court and/or Child Safety (or any other agency), even if others don't agree.
- Respect the child or young person's privacy and keep all information confidential.
- Let Child Safety know if the child or young person discloses that they or other children have been harmed, or tell the police about any crimes that may have caused harm to any child or young person.

You can contact a child advocate to discuss issues disclosed by young people or any other legal issues about child related matters. To contact a child advocate, simply phone the Office of the Public Guardian on 1300 653 187 or send us an email.

# Children and young people in the child protection system have the right to:

Have regular reviews to check how they are going in care

Take part in important decisions affecting their life, such as where they live, contact with their family, school and health

Privacy

Live in a safe and stable place

Access the help they need, like dental care, medical treatment or counselling services

Be given information that is being kept about them

Have contact with their family and community

Access job training and get help finding a job

Access school or education that is right for them

Be given information about the decisions being made about their life

Living in a place that best meets their needs and respects their cultural background

Be involved in planning the support and assistance they may need after leaving care, such as where they will live, job training and education

## Contact us

t. 1300 653 187

e. [publicguardian@publicguardian.qld.gov.au](mailto:publicguardian@publicguardian.qld.gov.au)

w. [www.publicguardian.qld.gov.au](http://www.publicguardian.qld.gov.au)