

Child Advocates

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.

A Child Advocate can help speak up for you when decisions are being made by the Childrens Court and Child Safety. For example, if the Court is deciding if Child Safety should be your guardian.

Child Advocates can let the Court/Child Safety 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 from Child Safety about you, so they can understand your situation properly
- 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 court process (if you want to), and
- give you information and advice about decisions being made, what's happening at Court and about your rights.



A Child Advocate can help you participate in the Court process by:

- writing a letter to the Court about your views and wishes
- going to Court with you
- helping you to meet with the Magistrate in private
- going to Court on your behalf to express your views and wishes, so you don't have to go, or
- updating you along the way.

Child Advocates usually need to talk with you a number of times. They can meet you somewhere or talk to you over the phone.

Want a Child Advocate?

If you have views and wishes you would like to share, and want to be involved in the court process in some way, you may like a Child Advocate to help you.

A Child Advocate can work with you if agree to the referral. If Child Safety or another person is making a referral for you, they may ask you sign below.

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

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