

How a child advocate–legal officer can help

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

How we can help

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

- providing **information or advice** on any legal matters they are concerned about
- helping **resolve disputes** with other stakeholders including making an official complaint to any authority which would include **child safety**, the **police**, **health** or the **Ombudsman**
- attending **family group meetings** and **court ordered conferences** with them or on their behalf
- bringing an application in the Queensland Civil and Administration Tribunal (QCAT) to review decisions made by Child Safety such as:
 - contact with parents
 - contact with siblings
 - parents not knowing where the child or young person is placed
 - the child or young person moving or not moving carers
- helping a child or young person who is having trouble at school regarding **suspensions or exclusions from school**
- supporting them to have their views and wishes expressed in court proceedings
- supporting a child or young person to make an **application to vary or revoke their child protection order**.

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 our freecall number—**1800 661 533**—or send us your details by email or SMS and a child advocate will call you back.



Contact Us

If you want to speak with either a child advocate or a community visitor from the Office of the Public Guardian you can contact us by phone, text message (sms), email or quick message, through the 'Contact Us' page on the Office of the Public Guardian website.

t. 1800 661 533

sms. 0418 740 186

e. child@publicguardian.qld.gov.au

www.publicguardian.qld.gov.au

Children and young people in care have the right to:

Have regular reviews to check how they are going in care

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

Privacy

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

Live in a safe and stable place

Have contact with their family and community

Be given information that is being kept about them

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

Access job training and get help finding a job

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

Access school or Education that is right for them

Be given information about the decisions and plans made about their life