

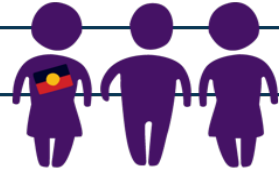
# PROCESS MAP

## PRE-COURT NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE



### Notification

- » Child Protection receives a report that a child has been harmed, or is at risk of harm, abuse or neglect.
- » This report could be, for example, from a teacher, healthcare worker, or a concerned member of the community.



### Child Safety Investigation

- » Child Protection will investigate the report that they receive.
- » This might mean that Child Protection workers will come to your house, to have a look at how you live and ask you some questions.
- » This might also mean that Child Protection workers will go to your children's school or a hospital that they are at, to ask your children some questions about their life and how things are going at home, including how they are treated.



### No other action

- » If Child Protection investigate and don't think there are any problems, they might decide to take no action.
- » This means that they think your children are safe enough. Child Protection will not make an application to the court if they think your children will be safe.



### Child taken into care

- » If Child Protection is worried that your children have, or are going to suffer harm, abuse or neglect that you can't or won't protect them from, they will take your children into the care of Child Protection.
- » Normally Child Protection workers will have a warrant from a court, saying that you must let your children go with them.
- » Child Protection workers do not need a warrant to take your children into care if they believe that they are in urgent need of protection to prevent them from being harmed.
- » Child Protection do not have to tell you that they intend to take your children into care. They do not have to let you know they have applied for a warrant or intend to apply for a protection order.



### Application to court

- » If your children are taken into care by Child Protection, they must make an application for a protection order to the Children's Court within 2 working days. A case can also start with your children still in your care.
- » Your case will be listed for a hearing before the court within 3 working days of when Child Protection's application is lodged.
- » If Child Protection decides not to seek a protection order after taking your children into care, they must return your children to you or the other parent within 2 working days.

Protection  
order is  
made

OR

No order is  
made

### Child Protection works with your family without a court order

- » If Child Protection find some things they are worried about, but think your children are safe enough, they will work with you to help make the things they are worried about better.
- » This might mean you have to work with the Child Protection workers, and maybe other workers and psychologists, to sort out the things Child Protection are worried about.
- » If you work with Child Protection, then it is more likely that your children will be able to stay with you.



# PROCESS MAP

## CHILD PROTECTION COURT PROCEDURE

