

CHILD PROTECTION HAS TAKEN MY CHILDREN – WHAT CAN I DO?



Make some changes

If the Department of Communities (sometimes called Child Protection) has taken your children away from you, you might need to change some things in your life to make your home safe enough for your children so that they are allowed to come home.

Child Protection is looking to see you show good changes over time.

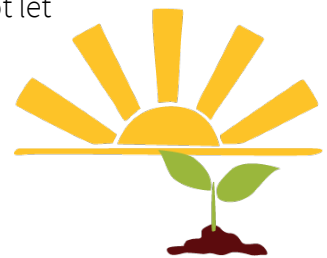
It might be safe enough for your children to come home in a short time. It might be safe enough for your children to come home in a longer time.



Child Protection or the magistrate at the Children's Court will not let your children live at home with you until it is safe enough.

Remember, healing can take a long time.

You might feel like giving up sometimes. Don't give up.



Things to think about:

- » What are your goals?
- » What are things in your life that make it not safe for your children? Think about the worries Child Protection has about your family. The things that are not good for your children.
- » What is stopping you from changing these things?
- » Who in your family or which friends can help you sort things out?
- » What local services or programs can help you help sort things out?
- » If you were not the parent looking after your children when they were taken by Child Protection, what do you want for your children? Maybe you want your children to live with another family member?



Talk to Child Protection about:

- ◆ When your meetings with Child Protection will be. Try to get the meetings at the times and places that are good for you. Don't give up if you miss a meeting.
- ◆ Tell Child Protection if you need an interpreter for the meetings.



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At your meetings with Child Protection, you can speak up, ask questions and:

- ◆ Tell Child Protection where you want your children to live until they can come back to live with you.
- ◆ Ask Child Protection about visiting your children. How often can you visit your children? When and where will the visits be and how long can each visit be?
- ◆ Tell Child Protection about the good things that you are already doing to make it safe enough for your children to come back and live with you.
- ◆ Ask Child Protection about what else you must do so to make your home safe enough so your children are allowed to come home.
- ◆ Ask Child Protection to tell you about the services or programs that can help you. Maybe you can make some appointments to go to these programs or services. Maybe you can ask Child Protection to make the appointments for you.
- ◆ Tell Child Protection about anything they have got wrong.



Talk to a lawyer about

- » The worries Child Protection have about your family.
- » The worries Child Protection have raised that you don't agree with.
- » What will happen at court.
- » What you want to say to the magistrate.
- » What you can speak about at court and when.
- » What your options are so you can choose the steps you want to take to sort things out and get your children back.
- » What will happen if you do make it safe enough for your children.
- » What will happen if you do not make it safe enough for your children.

