

These orders do not sever your legal relationship with your child or change your child's legal name or identity.

As the guardian takes on parental responsibility, our involvement in your child's life becomes very limited, and we no longer make decisions about your child's care and upbringing. This means many of the things we do now will become the guardian's responsibility, including:

- telling you where your child is living and providing information about your child's care (if it's safe to do so)
- supporting contact with family and other people who are important to your child
- informing your child about their rights and making sure their rights are upheld
- maintaining your child's connection to their culture
- providing for your child's health needs
- making decisions about your child's education
- meeting your child's needs for disability support, where relevant, including working with the National Disability Insurance Agency
- helping your child prepare for adulthood
- informing us immediately, in writing, if your child leaves their care or intends to leave their care.

What if I have concerns about my child's care after an order is made?

If you believe your child's guardian is not meeting their responsibilities, you can contact our Complaints Unit about your concerns:

- Phone: 1800 080 464
- Email: feedback@cyjma.qld.gov.au

Your Child Safety Service Centre can also help you to contact our Complaints Unit.

More information

Phone: **1800 811 810** (free call)

Go to: www.dcssds.qld.gov.au

 Permanency

Your child's long-term care

Information for parents



To grow up happy and healthy, children need to live in a safe and stable home with people who care for them.

If it's not possible for you to care for your child at home, we'll work with you, your child, and the important people in your child's life to arrange for your child's long-term care.

Once it's decided what the best alternative care arrangements will be for your child, an application may be made to the Childrens Court for:

- a long-term guardianship order to another suitable person, or
- a permanent care order to another suitable person.

These orders give responsibility for parenting a child to a person other than the child's parents. This person becomes your child's guardian until they reach 18 and ensures that your child has a secure and permanent home to live in with someone who knows and cares about them.

What's the difference between the orders?

The difference between the orders is that under a long-term guardianship order:

- your child will continue to have contact with their Child Safety Officer once a year
- you can request a review of your child's case plan if there has been no review within 12 months
- we can provide emergency support to the guardian, if needed

- you can apply to the Childrens Court to revoke the order if your circumstances have changed.

A permanent care order will only be made by the Childrens Court if the proposed guardian:

- is able and willing to permanently meet your child's needs
- is committed to preserving your child's identity, connecting to your child's culture, and supporting their relationships with family members, as outlined in the case plan
- has been caring for your child for at least 12 months (or less if they're already caring for a sibling).

Who will be my child's guardian?

A guardian could be a family member or a carer.

In deciding who your child's guardian may be, we assess the person's ability and willingness to meet:

- all of your child's needs
- the legal obligations of a being a long-term guardian or permanent guardian.

Your views are very important, and we'll support you to participate in the assessment process for your child's guardian. Information that you share with us might be shared with other people who are also involved in the assessment or court process.

If you have concerns about the proposed guardian's ability to care for your child, it's important you talk

to us before the order is made. You'll also have an opportunity to have your say through the court process. You can have a lawyer with you to help have your views heard.

You can call any of the following organisations for legal advice:

- Legal Aid Queensland
Phone: 1300 651 188
- Community Legal Centres Queensland
Phone: 07 3392 0092
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (Qld)
Free call: 1800 012 255

For Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander children, the court must consider Aboriginal tradition or Island custom and be satisfied the child's case plan provides details on how the proposed guardian will maintain your child's connection with culture, and community or language group.

What is the guardian responsible for?

Once the order is made, the guardian will be responsible for the daily care of your child and making decisions about your child's wellbeing and upbringing.

The guardian does not replace you. You'll always be your child's parent and continue to have ongoing contact with your child, if it's considered to be in their best interests.