ChildProtectionPeak

Know Your Rights

When your family is dealing with Child Safety

You have the right to access Legal Advice

It is important that you speak to a lawyer at the earliest opportunity if Child Safety become involved with your family.

They can help with advice and support, negotiating with Child Safety, representing you in court and other meetings and referrals to other support services.

You can contact a lawyer yourself or you can ask Child Safety to help you to speak to a lawyer if required.

Contacts:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (QLD) – 1800 012 255
- Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Legal Service – 1800 88 77 00
- Legal Aid Queensland – 1300 65 11 88
- Legal Aid Queensland's Indigenous Hotline – 1300 65 01 43
- Office of the Public Guardian (Child Advocate Legal Officer) – 1300 653 187

You can access the Family Participation Program (FPP)

FPP is independent of Child Safety and can support families to participate in decision making about their children.

You can tell Child Safety that you want the FPP to assist you when you talk to Child Safety to make sure that there is a focus on the strengths of your family, as well as culture and connection.

FPP can also help by acting as your Independent Entity or can assist you to find someone who could be your Independent Person.

Tell Child Safety if you want to talk to the FPP and they can help you to contact your local FPP office.

The contact details for the FPP programs in Queensland can be accessed at:

https://www.qatsicpp.com.au/about-us/our-members/

You have the right to an Independent Person (IP)/Independent Entity (IE)

An IP or IE can support you when you are dealing with Child Safety to make sure that all of the discussions centre around your children, culture and the strengths of your family.

You can choose who your IP is, it can be an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person who is a family member, friend or elder. The FPP can also help you as an IE.

An IP or IE can come to any meetings or discussions with Child Safety and can support you in court if required.

You can ask Child Safety to wait to speak to you until you have your IP or IE with you for these discussions. Child Safety can help you to contact FPP if you need them to help you as an IE if required.

You can access the Family Wellbeing Service (FWS)

FWS can support your family in a culturally responsive way to help you to keep your children safe and protected.

FWS focus on early intervention support as well as supporting families who are already involved with Child Safety.

You can contact FWS yourself or if your family is involved with Child Safety, they can help you to connect with FWS.

The contact details for the FWS programs in Queensland can be accessed at:

https://www.qatsicpp.com.au/about-us/our-members/

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle

https://www.snaicc.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Understanding_applying_ATSICCP.pdf

Know Your Rights

To Child Safety and/or Queensland Police Service:

I wish to speak to a lawyer/ Independent Person/Family Participation Program worker before I answer any questions put to me by Child Safety or the Queensland Police Service or before I enter into any agreements about my children.