

# Emergency care for children during COVID-19

An Easy Read booklet for parents



## How to use this booklet



The Victorian Government Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) wrote this booklet. When you see the word 'we', it means DFFH.



We wrote this booklet in an easy to read way. We use pictures to explain some ideas.

**Bold**

We wrote some important words in **bold**.

Not bold

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these important words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 13.



This Easy Read booklet is a summary of another document.



You can ask for help to read this booklet. A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

## What is in this booklet?

What is this booklet about?	4
Why did we give you this booklet?	6
About the law	7
What happens next?	8
How to get legal help	10
When will you take part in the hearing?	11
Word list	13

## What is this booklet about?



If a child is not safe we might put them into **emergency care**.

Emergency care is when a child is taken away from their:



- home
- parents
- family.

They are moved somewhere safe until there is a **hearing** at the Children's Court.

A hearing is:



- a formal meeting at the **Children's Court**
- where decisions about your child's case can be made.



The Children's Court is a place where legal decision about a child can be made.



A **child protection worker** is the person who places a child in emergency care.

A child protection worker:



- works for the government



- talks to people to find out if a child is safe



- works to keep children safe.

## Why did we give you this booklet?



We gave you this booklet because your child is in emergency care.

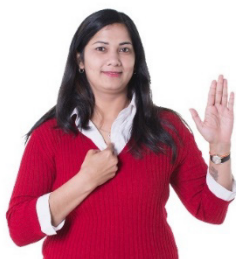


We gave you another booklet that explains why we put your child in emergency care.



A child protection worker made this decision.

If you want to talk to someone about what has happened, you can call:



- the child protection worker



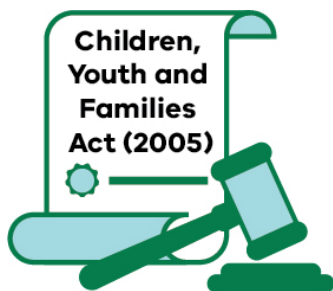
- after hours Child Protection Emergency Service (after 5pm and on weekends).

**13 12 78.**

## About the law

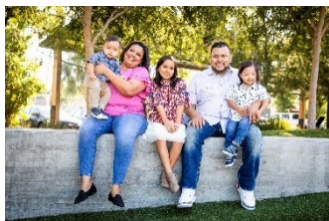


There is a law that says we can put a child in emergency care to keep them safe.

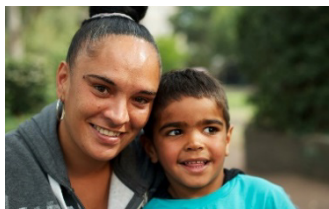


That law is called the *Children, Youth and Families Act (2005)*.

This law helps us:



- support families



- protect children if they need it.



## What happens next?



There will be a hearing at the Children's Court.



The Children's Court will now think about the decision to put your child into emergency care.



It's important you take part in the hearing.



Because of **COVID-19** you might not be able to go to the Children's Court for the hearing.

COVID-19 is a virus that:



- can spread easily from one person to another person
- has affected many people around the world.





If you cannot go to the Children's Court because of COVID-19 you can still take part.

You can take part in the hearing on your:



- phone
- computer
- tablet.

If you have a **legal representative**, they can take part in the hearing on their:



- phone
- computer
- tablet.



A legal representative is someone who can:

- give you legal support
- support you with legal decisions.

## How to get legal help



If you don't have your own legal representative, you can:

- choose one
- get help from **Victoria Legal Aid (VLA)**.



VLA is an organisation that can give you free:

- information about the law
- legal help.



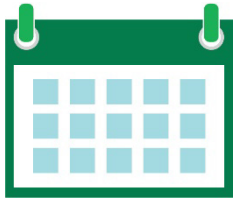
VLA will give you information to help you in the Children's Court.



You can call VLA for more information.

**(03) 9269 0234**

## When will you take part in the hearing?



The date of the hearing is:

---



The hearing will start at:

---



The child protection worker's name:

---



Their position is:

---



Their work address is:

---



Their phone number is:

---



Their email address is:

---



The child protection worker's signature:

---



Today's date:

---

## Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this document mean.

### **Child protection worker**



A child protection worker:

- works for the government
- talks to people to find out if a child is safe
- works to keep children safe.



### **Children's Court**

The Children's Court is a place where legal decisions about a child are made.

### **COVID-19**

COVID-19 is a virus that:



- can spread easily from one person to another person.
- has affected many people around the world.



## Emergency care

Emergency care is when a child is moved somewhere safe until there is a hearing at the Children's Court.

## Hearing



A hearing is:

- a formal meeting at the Children's Court
- where decisions about your child's case can be made.



## Legal representative

A legal representative is someone who can:

- give you legal support
- support you with legal decisions.



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