

# Authorising carers to make certain decisions

## Information for parents

This sheet provides information for parents about the decisions an out-of-home carer can make. It explains the types of decisions that can be made in relation to your child by their carer. It also covers where you can get more information. It is relevant to you if your child is living in kinship care, foster care, or residential care, as the result of a Children's Court order.

### What types of decisions can be made?

#### Care decisions

Carers make many decisions about a child's day-to-day care for example, about the clothes the child will wear, their routine, and so on. They are expected to do this and do not need to be authorised to make these kinds of decisions.

#### Decisions of a short-term nature

At times, routine short-term decisions need to be made for a child. A carer may be authorised to make decisions about specified issues that are more than everyday care decisions. Examples include, whether a child can go on a school excursion, get involved in sports, or cultural activities, or go to the doctor for a minor illness. The case planner for your child is responsible for ensuring appropriate decisions are made about your child while they are in out-of-home care. They may authorise your child's carer to make decisions about these kinds of issues.

It is important that the carer can make these types of decisions. It helps them to respond to your child's needs in a timely way.

#### Decisions of a long-term nature

If the Children's Court has made an interim accommodation order or a family reunification order for your child, your child's case worker will contact you about any decisions regarding major long-term issues, because these cannot be made without your agreement.

If the Children's Court has made a care by Secretary or long-term care order for your child, then your child's carer may be authorised to make some decisions about major long-term issues, depending on the circumstances. This may happen if the overall permanency objective is for long-term or permanent care. It is more likely if your child is living with their intended long-term carer.

A major long-term issue in relation to a child means an issue about the care, wellbeing and development of the child that is **of a long-term nature**. This includes issues about the child's education (both current and future), religious and cultural upbringing, health or name **of a long-term nature**.

## How will I know what my child's carer can decide about?

You will receive a letter. It will list the issues your child's carer is authorised to make decisions about.

## What about if I have any questions?

If you have any questions, please contact your child's case worker.

The case worker is: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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