

Rights of Children and Young People in Care



CHILD PROTECTION INFORMATION SHEET

Children and young people in care of the Department of Health and Human Services have the right to be treated with:

- ✦ **Respect**
- ✦ **Fairness, and**
- ✦ **Integrity**

They have the right to know what is happening and to participate in the decisions that affect them

By law, Child Protection Services can only make decisions by looking at what is in the best interests of the child or young person. The safety and wellbeing of the child or young person comes first.

Children and young people in the care of the Secretary of DHHS have the right to:

- live in a physically and emotionally safe and nurturing environment
- be free from any form of physical or emotional abuse
- be free from corporal and unusual punishment and any punishment of a punitive nature including coercion, threat and mental abuse in relation to their family circumstances, behaviour and daily living functions of eating, sleeping and toileting
- be free from the administration of alcohol, chemical substances or medication not authorised by their medical practitioner or otherwise agreed in consultation with their primary worker
- be treated with dignity in their personal relationships with other people in the home
- have their biological, cultural and familial identity respected and to be supported in any contact with their families as prescribed in their care plans
- have visitors and to visit friends and significant people in their lives, unless this is precluded by Court orders or otherwise disallowed by child protection services on reasonable grounds because of safety or risk issues
- preserve, enhance and celebrate their cultural, ethnic, familial and religious identities

- be free to express an opinion on all matters including decision making about their welfare
- confidentiality and privacy in regard to letters and written communication, phone conversations, and meetings with their primary worker, family and friends
- the right to access educational, recreational, social, religious and cultural activities appropriate to their needs and interests
- a nutritional diet that meets their developmental needs and does not conflict with their cultural or religious beliefs or practices
- choose and wear their own clothes and to choose their own hairstyles and other manifestations of personal style and appearance as appropriate to their age and circumstance
- manage their own cash resources including pocket money and to be offered advice on management of these resources
- request a Family Group Conference to bring everyone together to make plans and decisions about their lives and their future
- information about support and advocacy for children and young people in care through CREATE Foundation, Commissioner for Children and other relevant youth services and agencies
- the entitlements of children and young people under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Child Protection in Tasmania

State Manager, Child and Family Services

State Office:

4th Floor 34 Davey Street, Hobart 7000

Tel: (03) 6233 4895

Child Protection Advice and Referral Service (CPAARS)

Telephone 1300 737 639

Fax 03 6230 7821

Email cpaars@dhhs.tas.gov.au

Child Protection North

Telephone 6336 2376

Child Protection South

Telephone 6230 7650

Child Protection North West

Telephone 6434 6426

[Link to DHHS website for more information on Child Protection Services](http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/services/view.php?id=657) (<http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/services/view.php?id=657>)