

# Rights of Parents

## CHILD PROTECTION INFORMATION SHEET

*As a client of Child Protection Services, you have the right to be treated with:*

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

*You have the right to know what is happening and to participate in the development of plans that affect you or your child.*

***While your child's safety and welfare must come first, parents have a right to:***

- Be fully informed about the Child Protection process and the risk assessment (Tasmanian Risk Framework) where possible
- To have access to relevant and up-to-date information about the Child Protection process.
- For information to be explained in a clear and understandable manner
- Decide whether or not you agree that the child/young person is in need of care and protection and appeal a decision by applying to the Magistrate's Court.
- Legal advice and representation
- Be told where your child is, unless Child Protection believes that this information would harm the safety, welfare and wellbeing of your child or their carer
- Be given information about your child's carer, unless Child Protection believes that this information would harm the safety, welfare and wellbeing of your child or their carer and their family
- Be informed of your child's progress and development
- Request services and supports which could help your child return to your care
- Have an interpreter, if required
- Be treated with respect regarding their religious beliefs, cultural identity and sexuality
- Involvement of a recognised Aboriginal organisation, if identified as Aboriginal
- Consider matters in private at anytime
- To attend a meeting with a support person
- To be contacted by Child Protection to arrange a convenient time to meet or visit the home (unless there is risk to a child/young person's safety)
- As much time as necessary to find solutions
- Expect their ideas, plans and suggestions to be accepted unless they are impractical, don't keep the child safe or are in breach of the law
- Provide feedback and make a complaint to a senior worker or manager
- Request an Family Group Conference in writing to Child Protection (under the legislation 2 or more family members or a child can request an FGC to review arrangements of a child/young person)

### Feedback regarding DHHS Child Protection Services

If you have suggestions about how we can improve our services in child protection or have a complaint, please contact the Child Protection Service State Office through (03) 62334745, or the Manager of one of the following child protection offices:

**Child Protection Advice and Referral Service (CPAARS)** - Telephone: 1300 737 639

**Child Protection North** - Telephone: 6336 2376

**Child Protection South** - Telephone: 6230 7650

**Child Protection North West** - Telephone: 6434 6308