

# Children and young people matters

QCAT can take a new look at (review) some decisions made about you, as a child or young person, by the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women.

If you feel a decision is wrong, you can talk to the department about your concerns and ask why they made the decision. You may be able to work things out.

If you still feel the decision is wrong, you can apply to QCAT for a review of these types of decisions:

:

- deciding who will care for you
- not informing your parents of who is caring for you and where you are living
- refusing to allow contact between you and your parents or a member of your family
- restricting or imposing conditions on the contact between you and your parents or a member of your family
- removing you from a carer.

## **It's important to have the letter from the department telling you about their decision.**

The letter will explain how they came to the decision and their reasons.

## **Can someone apply for a review of a decision on my behalf?**

Another person can apply to QCAT for a review of a decision on your behalf, for example, another family member.

QCAT will consider what is in your best interests when looking at any application made by someone on your behalf.

## **Who can help me?**

A number of people can help you work out what to do when you are thinking about having a decision made by the department looked at again.

For general questions and completing the application form, you can talk to:

- QCAT staff who will explain how everything works, what you can expect and answer questions about the process. They cannot give legal advice.
- Legal Aid Queensland or a private solicitor about legal advice and representation
- Office of the Public Guardian who can support you in reviewing child protection decisions and ensure your voice is heard
- other organisations such as Foster Care Queensland who can help you complete the application form and support you through the review process.

## **Please be aware of the time limits.**

If you have not been given the decision, you must ask for a copy of it by writing to the department within 14 days after the decision was made. The department must provide you with a copy of the letter within a reasonable time, or within 28 days after receiving your request.

## **How to apply for a review of a decision.**

Complete and lodge [Form 17 - Application to review a decision – childrens matters](#).

You can find and lodge this application form at QCAT's Brisbane office or at [your local Magistrates Court](#) (excluding the Brisbane Magistrates Court). The form and other information are also available on [QCAT's website](#).

When you apply for a review of the decision you can also apply for a stay of the decision. A stay temporarily stops the decision being carried out until QCAT makes a decision about your application.

A stay will only be granted by QCAT in special circumstances.

## **What happens next?**

Once your application has been received, QCAT will review the information you provided. You will then be contacted by QCAT about next steps.

---

## **Contact information**

Email: [enquiries@qcat.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@qcat.qld.gov.au)

Phone: 1300 753 228

Website: [qcat.qld.gov.au](http://qcat.qld.gov.au)

Address: Level 9, 259 Queen Street, Brisbane, 4000

Post: GPO Box 1639, Brisbane Qld 4001

Contact details for local Magistrates Courts are available on [Queensland Courts' website](#).

### **Department of Child Safety,**

#### **Youth and Women**

Phone: 07 3224 8045

Website: [communities.qld.gov.au](http://communities.qld.gov.au)

### **Department of Education**

Phone: 13 74 68

Website: [education.qld.gov.au](http://education.qld.gov.au)

### **Foster Care Queensland**

Phone: 07 3256 6166

Website: [fcq.com.au](http://fcq.com.au)

### **Legal Aid Queensland**

Phone: 1300 65 11 88

Website: [legalaid.qld.gov.au](http://legalaid.qld.gov.au)

### **Queensland Family and Child Commission**

Phone: 07 3900 6000

Website: [qfcc.qld.gov.au](http://qfcc.qld.gov.au)

### **Youth Advocacy Centre**

Phone: 07 3356 1002

Website: [yac.net.au](http://yac.net.au)

### **Office of the Public Guardian**

Phone: 1800 661 533

Website: [publicguardian.qld.gov.au](http://publicguardian.qld.gov.au)

*This fact sheet provides general information and should not be considered legal advice. If you are unsure about your legal rights, you should seek legal advice. Your individual circumstances should determine any actions taken to resolve your dispute.*