

Child Protection and your personal information

Information for parents

What laws protect my personal information?

The *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005*, the *Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005*, the *Family Violence Protection Act 2008*, the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014*, and the *Health Records Act 2001* govern the sharing of information held by Child Protection and privacy obligations.

What information is collected and how is it used?

Child Protection investigates reports about children who may be in need of protection and helps families to care for their children. While investigating a report about your child and working with your family, we will collect information about you and your child including:

- names, addresses, dates of birth and contact details
- family circumstances and relationship details
- medical, psychological and psychiatric reports
- criminal history.

We use this information to assess whether your child is in need of protection, determine their best interests and decide how best to help you and your child.

Who can Child Protection share my personal information with?

We may share information about you and your child to other people and organisations that help children and families. We will usually tell you who your information is given to. Sometimes the law allows us to collect and share your information without your knowledge or consent. This includes carrying out legal responsibilities, to promote the wellbeing and safety of children or when someone's safety or welfare is at risk.

Information about you and your child may be given to:

- Victoria Police, who also have a role in protecting children
- community service organisations including Child FIRST and The Orange Door
- schools, health services and doctors
- specialist services, such as alcohol and drug services, to help you receive a service
- other people important to helping to keep your child safe and well looked after
- child protection departments in States and Territories of Australia outside of Victoria, to enable them to undertake their own child protection activities – this is necessary because children, parents and carers may live, travel and move outside of Victoria but their information may still be relevant for helping children and their families.

