

# Child Protection and your personal information

Information for young people

## What is Child Protection?

Child Protection is part of the Department of Health and Human Services. We have received a report because someone thinks you are in need of protection. We need to investigate the report to make sure you are safe.

## What information is collected?

Child Protection will collect information about you and your family. This can include:

- names, addresses, dates of birth
- who is in your family
- things that happen in your family
- details about your education and health
- if you or people in your family have been in trouble with the police.

This is used to help us work out if you are safe, what your best interests are and to decide what support you and your family need.

## 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* say how we have to look after your information. Together, these laws tell us how we are allowed to collect, use, and store your personal information. They also say who we can give information to, or collect information from, about you.

## Who can Child Protection share my personal information with?

We may give information about you to other people or organisations to help us decide if you are safe, or how to help you or your family. We might give information to your school, or doctor, or an organisation that provides advice and support to children and families or provides out-of-home care. If we think a crime may have been committed against you, we will tell the police so they can investigate. If we think that the Children's Court needs to make an order to keep you safe, we will put information about you and your family in a report to the court. You and your parents will get a copy of the report. If someone else who is legally allowed to, asks for information so they can do a better job of helping with your safety and wellbeing, we will then give information about you that will help them.

We know that you, your family and carers may live, travel and move outside of Victoria. We will make limited information about your identity available to child protection departments in other States and Territories in Australia to assist them to perform their child protection activities, ensure you are safe and determine how to help you or your family.

When we can, we will tell you before we give your personal information to someone else. Sometimes we will decide it is better for you, or for someone else, if we don't tell you until later. And sometimes the law means that we can, or we must, give your information to someone else.

## Access to personal information

You should speak to your child protection worker if you want to see information that has been collected about you. They may be able to show you or talk to you about the information or help you to apply under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* to access your personal information and to have it changed if it is incorrect.

## Further information

If you do not understand or you have a complaint about what we do with your personal information, please ask your child protection worker or their supervisor. If you choose not to do this, or you still have a complaint you can contact:

- Department of Health and Human Services complaints reception                      phone: 1300 884 706
- Victorian Privacy Commissioner    phone: (03) 8619 8719 or free call: 1300 666 444
- Health Services Commissioner    phone: (03) 8601 5222 or free call: 1800 136 066

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