

Charter of Rights for parents and carers with disability involved in Child Protection

2022



Who made the Charter



These are the people and services who helped make the Charter.



- Human Rights Advisory Committee.

Human Rights Advisory Committee is a group of services and people who speak up for the rights of people with disability.



- Child Protection.

Child Protection means the services who keep your child safe.



- Disability services.



People with disability helped make the Charter.



Thank you to all the people and services who helped make the charter.

Acknowledgement of country



We acknowledge the true owners of the land in Victoria.



These are the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



We pay respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



We pay respect to their Elders who

- Lived in the past
- Live now
- Will live in the future.

The Charter



This information sheet is about the Charter of Rights for parents and carers with disability involved with Child Protection in Victoria.

We will call this **the Charter**.



A charter says what rights people have.

Rights are things that belong to everyone.



The Charter says what rights you have if

- You are a parent or carer with disability
- You have a child involved with Child Protection in Victoria.

Child Protection might work with



- Government



- Schools



- Police



- Courts.



Child Protection is there to make sure your child is safe.

What is the Charter for



The Charter is there to help you if you have a child involved with Child Protection.



It tells you

- Your rights
- What Child Protection must do.



The Charter says you have the right to always be a part of your child's life.



The Charter says Child Protection must talk to you every time they help your child.



It says Child Protection must be open and honest with you.

Who is the Charter for



The Charter is for

- Parents
- Carers
- Other services who help your child.



It helps make sure you get your rights when your child is involved with Child Protection.



The Charter is also for the Child Protection workers who help your child.



The Charter says Child Protection workers should always make sure your child gets their rights.



The Charter is also for other people who might help care for your child.

This could be people like

- Care worker

Care worker is someone who helps care for you or your child.

- Social worker

Social worker is someone who helps with problems in your life.

- Foster carer

Foster carer are people who take care of your child.

- Kinship carer

Kinship carer is when someone from your family takes care of your child.



What does the law say



There are laws that say what rights children and people with disability have.

Laws are rules everyone must follow.



The law says every child has rights.



1 of the rights is the right to be safe.



The law says some children may need help to be safe.



It might be Child Protection who helps keep your child safe.



The law says people with disability have the same rights as everyone.



Some of these rights are

- Make decisions
- Have a family
- Be treated fairly.



The Charter says Child Protection must make sure you get your rights when they help you.



The Charter also says that you must get help to

- Look after your child if you need it
- Make decisions about your child.

Who should know about the Charter



Everyone who helps families with children involved with Child Protection should know about the Charter.



This means

- The police and courts



- Lawyers



- The NDIS



- Services who help people with disability get their rights.

How will you know about the Charter



Child Protection will give you a copy of the Charter when you first meet them.



They will talk about the Charter with you.



They will tell you what rights you have.



You can ask them questions about the Charter.



Services that help people with disability get their rights will also have the Charter.

What you can do if you are not getting your rights



You should talk to your Child Protection worker if you are not getting the rights in the Charter.



You can ask for a support person to help speak to your Child Protection worker.



You can make a complaint to the government in Victoria.

You can send an email to feedback@dfh.vic.gov.au



You can call the Office of the Public Advocate.

The Office of the Public Advocate helps make sure everyone gets their rights.

Their number is **1300 309 337**.



COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN
AND YOUNG PEOPLE

You can call the Commission for Children and Young People.

The Commission for Children and Young People helps the services who look after children.



They make sure these services keep children safe.

The number is **1300 782 978**.



Other people you could call are

- A lawyer
- An NDIS worker
- An advocate.



An **advocate** is someone who helps you get your rights.

The rights in The Charter



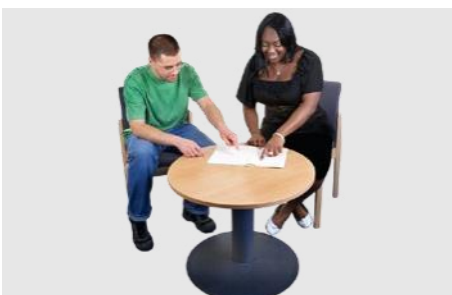
There is an information guide that tells you what the rights in the Charter are.



It is called The rights in The Charter.



You can ask for a copy of the Charter to read.



You can ask for support to read it.

Council for Intellectual Disability made this document Easy Read in 2022. **CID** for short. You need to ask CID if you want to use any pictures in this document. You can contact CID at **business@cid.org.au**.