

>> Get Legal Advice as soon as possible.

Phone the Perth Children's Court: 9218 0100

- Make an initial appointment with your lawyer so you can explain your situation, and understand the court process
- Even if you do not get legal representation, speak to the Duty Lawyer when you are at the Children's Court
- If outside Perth, ring Legal Aid Info Line 1300 650 579.
The LAWA website also has useful information www.legalaid.wa.org.au
- If you are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, you can contact; Aboriginal Legal Services WA; Djinda Services (Perth) women only - if you are experiencing or at risk of domestic violence or sexual abuse; Aboriginal Family Legal Service (some regional); Country Legal Services, including Women's Legal Services - not all CLC do protection and care

>> What can a lawyer do?

- Appear in court for you
- Provide information and advice
- Ask for an adjournment if you don't have all the documents from the Department
- Write letters to the Department
- Assist with preparing documents for court
- Assist you to appeal a decision made by the court.

>> Attend all Court hearings

Every time - Even if you are told it is not necessary

>> Arrive at Court by 8.45am

This gives you a chance to get settled. You will go through security to get in to the waiting area, and sometimes there is a queue. *Note: hearings, where there will be a video link, are held first. Food and drink is not permitted in the waiting room.*

>> Arrange child care for your children if required

You will need to focus on what is being said in court - it can be a long day.

>> Bring copies of your court documents

Bring copies of all your court documents with you, for your lawyer, for example, Affidavit.

>> Write down what you want to say

To help you remember, write down what you want to say.
Your lawyer will speak on your behalf to the Magistrate.

>> Bring a support person with you who can help keep you calm

>> In the Court room

- No hats or sunglasses can be worn in Court
- Turn your phone onto silent
- Bow as you go in and out of the room
- If you don't have a lawyer, only speak when you are asked to speak
- Call the Magistrate 'Your Honour', 'Sir' or 'Madam'.

