



## FINDING YOUR WAY WITH THE

# DEPARTMENT OF CHILD PROTECTION

### » Write everything down

Get a diary and write down the date of every contact you have had, or tried to have, with the Department or any other relevant organisation. Always leave your name and get the name of the person you speak to when you ring. Write a few points of what you discussed.

### » Attend all meetings with the Department

Take someone with you who can help you understand what is being discussed and who will help you remain calm. Ask for meetings on days and times that are good for you.

### » Attend contact with your child

Arrive before time and take a healthy snack and activities to do. Your child will be looking to you for reassurance that you are okay.

### » Stay visible

Have contact with organisations that can support you and can speak up for you.

### » Always attend court

Every time - even if you're told you don't need to.

### » Obtain legal advice/representation

At least speak to the duty lawyer before appearing in court if you haven't been able to get one yet.

### » You can seek a review of some decisions

This includes care plan decisions and if you have been refused Legal Aid WA representation.

### » Check your court written proposal (S143 document)

You would have received this during the Children's Court proceedings or at the time a protection order is made. This will outline the things the Department want you to do - it is like your 'roadmap.' The Department should have a meeting with you before they write this, to discuss the content.

### » Be wary of using social media.

Be wary of posting your situation on social media, such as; Facebook and Twitter, as this can be used in court. It is also against the law to identify a child in care in the media.

### » Get support

This is a really difficult time and you need people around you who will encourage and support you.

***If your child has been placed into the care of the Department you may find these tips helpful...***



**IF YOU'RE NOT SURE,  
KEEP ASKING QUESTIONS**

You can ring Fin WA for advice,  
information and support

phone:

**(08) 9328 6434**

or email:

**info@finwa.org.au**

