

Factsheet 3

Is community services going to take your child off you?

Sometimes community services are so worried about your child they will take your child away from you

This is called removing your child

The law says community services can take your child away from you if they think you can not look after your child properly and keep them safe

If community services take your child away they will make all the decisions about your child like

- when you can see your child
- where you can see your child
- where your child lives
- who your child lives with
- who can see the child and when they can see the child.

What happens to your child in the end will be decided by the children's court

You are not in trouble, the court case is about what happens to your child

See FACT SHEETS xxxx xxxxxx xxxx xxxxxx xxxxxxxx xxx xxx xxxxxxxx to find out more about what happens at court.



If you know community services are going to take your child try and have someone there to support you and help you

If you are with your child when they are taken away

Do

- try to be brave for your child so they do not get more upset
- pack a bag of nice things like their favorite toy or pillow
- say goodbye
- tell your child you will see them soon

Do not

- fight with the community services worker or swear at them
- it will not help
- it can make your child more upset.



After your child is taken you may feel very upset. That is normal.

The best thing for your child is for you to look after yourself

It is important that you find someone to talk to

If you feel like hurting yourself or lashing out you should talk to

- your doctor
- call Lifeline 13 11 14 or
- call Beyond Blue 1300 22 46 36

This brochure was made by the Intellectual Disability Rights Service

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