

## Working with Community Services to keep your child safe

You have to work with Community Services so that your child is not taken away from you.

Community Services have to work with you to try and fix things if they are worried about your child.

You have to work with Community Services to try and fix things so your child is safe and looked after properly.

The Community Services worker might ask you to agree to:

- A **risk assessment** and **safety plan**
- And a **parental responsibility contract**

### Safety Plan

A **safety plan** is a promise you make to Community Services about things you will do.

It is a plan to keep your child safe. A Safety Plan says:

- What you have to do
- When you need to do it
- What Community Service will do.

You sign it to say you promise to do the things written in the plan.



## A parental responsibility contract

A **parental responsibility contract** is also a promise you make to Community Services.

It says what you will do to **improve your** parenting.

It is written down.

You sign it to say you promise to do the things written in the contract.

A parental responsibility contract may say you have to:

- Go to counselling
- Go to a parenting course
- Go to the doctor for a mental health plan.

If you **do not** do the things written in your **safety plan** or your **parental responsibility contract** Community Services can take your child away from you.

It is very important to do the things in the plan.

### Tips

1. Work with Community Services to make things better for your child. This is your chance to keep your child with you
2. Have a support person with you when you talk to Community Services about a safety plan or parental responsibility plan
3. If you cannot read or understand the paperwork get someone to read it to you and explain
4. Make a good plan, only put things in the plan that you are really able to do
5. Show the paper to a lawyer and get some legal advice.

#### **Do not sign it until you talk to a lawyer**

If you have learning problems or intellectual disability you can call IDRS to get legal advice.

This fact sheet was made by IDRS

Telephone 02 9265 6300 or visit our website [www.idrs.org.au](http://www.idrs.org.au)

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