

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 cannot 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.



If you know Community Services are going to take your child try and have someone there to support you and help you.

If Community Services come and take your child away

Do

- ✓ Try to be brave for your child so they do not get more upset
- ✓ Pack a bag of nice things like their favourite 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 and it can make your child 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
- Lifeline 13 11 14
- Beyond Blue 1300 22 46 36

This fact sheet was made by IDRS

Telephone 02 9265 6300 or visit our website www.idrs.org.au

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