



## What if you don't agree with the court?

If you don't agree with the magistrate's decision, you can appeal. You should ask a lawyer to help you lodge your appeal.

For **temporary assessment orders**, you must lodge your appeal immediately, due to the short length of the order.

For **court assessment orders**, you must lodge your appeal within 28 days from the date the order was granted.



# Assessment orders

Information for parents



### More information

We know this may be a worrying time for you, but we want to work with you to do the best for your child. You can talk to us at any time about what's happening.

**Child safety officers:**

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.....

**Team leader:**

.....

**Child safety service centre:**

ph. ....

**Child Safety After Hours Service Centre:**

ph. 3235 9999 or freecall 1800 177 135



All children belong in families who love them and keep them safe.

If we're worried about your child's safety at home, we'll talk to you about your family situation. We'll also collect information to help us decide if your child needs protection.

If you decide not to talk to us, we may apply for an assessment order from the Childrens Court so we can collect the information we need.

## What are assessment orders?

Assessment orders are made by the Childrens Court. They allow us to collect information about your child's care at home, and take the necessary steps if we're worried about your child's safety.

There are 2 types of assessment orders:

- **Temporary assessment orders** — lasting for 3 working days (from midnight on the day the order is made)
- **Court assessment orders** — lasting for 28 days (from the day the application was first heard in court).

The assessment order tells us how long we have to collect the information we need. If the magistrate agrees, assessment orders can be extended once only.

If we can't collect the information within the time set by a temporary assessment order, we may apply for a court assessment order.

## What do assessment orders allow?

The magistrate decides what the assessment order allows us to do.

Assessment orders allow us, or a police officer, to:

- enter your home to look for your child
- talk to your child about the family situation
- organise a medical check or treatment, if we think your child is hurt
- direct how much contact you have with your child
- take your child into our custody.

## What happens to your child?

The assessment order allows us to place your child with a foster carer, while we collect the information we need.

You'll still be the guardian of your child.

We'll talk to your child about what's happening so they understand why they're living with someone else.

## Do you need to go to court?

### Temporary assessment orders:

- are made in urgent circumstances
- are granted by the magistrate
- are usually made without a court hearing.

You'll receive a copy of the temporary assessment order, and we'll explain what it means for you and your child.



Even though temporary assessment orders are granted by a magistrate, you should talk to a lawyer to understand what's happening and what your rights are. Having a lawyer helps to have your views heard.

### Court assessment orders:

- are decided at a court hearing
- cannot be heard by the magistrate unless you've been served
- can be made by the magistrate even if you don't attend court on the day.

We should give you at least 3 days' notice before you attend court.

You can have a lawyer represent you in court. Having a lawyer helps to have your views heard.

You can call any of the following organisations for help:

- Legal Aid Queensland (ph. 1300 651 188)
- Community Legal Centres Queensland (ph. 3392 0092)
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (Qld) (freecall 1800 012 255)