

Blue cards





What is a blue card?

A blue card is a card issued by the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian and indicates that a person is eligible to work with children and young people in Queensland.

To determine a person's eligibility to hold a blue card, the Commission conducts a Working with Children Check. This is a detailed national check of a person's criminal history, including any charges or convictions, as well as any disciplinary information held by certain professional organisations and police investigation information into allegations of serious child-related sexual offences.

Who conducts the Working with Children Check?

The Working with Children Check and the supply of blue cards are undertaken by the Commission for Children and Young People and Child

Guardian. The Commission is an independent authority separate from the Department of Child Safety.

Does anyone else in my household require a blue card?

All adult members who live in your household will need to apply for and receive a blue card before you can be approved as a carer. If you are already an approved carer, all adult members of your household require a blue card.

Regular visitors to your home may be required to obtain a blue card depending on the regularity of the visits. This will be determined by rules contained in the *Child Protection Act 1999* as well as Department of Child Safety policy. This is called a 'frequency test'.

You should talk to your Child Safety Officer about any regular visitors to your household to determine if they also require a blue card.

How do I apply for a blue card?

When you apply to become a foster carer or kinship carer, or your blue card is due for renewal, your Child Safety Officer will provide you and the other adult members of your household with application forms for the blue card.

It is important that you use the blue card application forms that are provided to you by the Department of Child Safety. The department application forms are different from the 'standard' blue card application forms from the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian. If you use the wrong form, your application will be delayed.

What happens if I am refused a blue card?

Carers and the other adult members of their household must have a blue card before they can be approved as foster carers or kinship carers by the department.

If you are refused a blue card, you will be informed of your rights to have the decision reviewed by the Children Services Tribunal. In some circumstances, depending on the nature of the offence that has resulted in the refusal of the blue card, applicants will not have a right of review.

If your application is refused, and a review by the tribunal is unsuccessful, you will be unable to be approved by the department as a carer.

What happens if an adult member of my household is refused a blue card?

You cannot be approved as a carer unless you and all adult members of your household have a blue card. If you are faced with a situation where an adult member of your household is unable to obtain a blue card, you should talk to your Child Safety Officer.

Does the Department of Child Safety still have a role in checking carers' backgrounds?

Yes. The department will still undertake criminal history checks for provisionally approved carers before placing a child or young person with them. The department will also continue to undertake checks on child protection history, and where necessary, traffic and domestic violence histories for all carers and the other adult members of their household.

What if I already have a blue card?

The department will check with the Commission to determine whether your blue card is still valid. You will need to complete a form to allow the department to undertake this check. However, you will not have to apply for a new blue card.

Where can I get more information?

For more information about applying for a blue card to become a foster carer or kinship carer, contact your local child safety service centre or call the foster carer recruitment line on **1300 550 877** or visit **www.childsafety.qld.gov.au**

For general information about the blue card, or to discuss your criminal history or application with the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian, call **1800 113 611** or visit **www.ccypcg.qld.gov.au**
You can also contact Foster Care Queensland on **(07) 3268 5955**.