

Case planning - Information for foster and kinship carers

Case planning is the process used by Child Safety Services to make sure children and young people in out-of-home care receive the care and support they need, including maintaining a connection with their family. A case plan is designed to meet children and young people's needs ranging from placement and support, health and education, to emotional and social development. Children and young people should be involved in case planning in a way that is appropriate for their age and development.

As a foster carer or kinship carer you are one of the people who will contribute to the case plan and help put it into action. You will meet regularly with the family, the Child Safety Officer, other important people in the child or young person's life, and the child or young person themselves when possible, to develop and review case plans. Case plans ensure that the child or young person's day-to-day needs are taken care of and help move towards either reunifying the child or young person with their family, or providing them with a long-term placement.

The first step in developing a case plan is to participate in a family group meeting, which will be arranged by the Child Safety Officer or another person approved by the Child Safety Services. The family group meeting brings together those who know the child or young person best, and other relevant people and services. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people this will include a Recognised Entity. The fact sheet Recognised Entities offers more information about Recognised Entities and their role.

The family group meeting will give everyone an opportunity to suggest ways forward for the child or young person and their family, and identify goals to measure this progress. These goals are intended to build on the strengths of the child or young person, their family and community.

The Child Safety Officer will incorporate these goals into a case plan, which is reviewed on a regular basis. A case plan review must occur at least every six months.

Placement Agreements

A Placement Agreement is a written agreement between the Child Safety Services and a foster carer or kinship carer for a child or young person placed out-of-home. It provides you with relevant information about the child or young person to assist you in providing protection and care. It also records the agreed support and services to be provided to you.

A Placement Agreement will contain relevant information known about the child or young person at the time of placement. This may include:

- details about the child or young person, their family and other significant people
- information given to the parents about the placement
- details about the child or young person's health, education and religion
- details of any behavioural factors that may impact on the safety and wellbeing of the child or young person and other members of the household
- goals for the placement, and support and services needed to meet these goals
- details of the reasons for the child or young person coming into care
- agreement by the carer and Child Safety Officer about the length of the placement, review process and support and services available to the carer.

The Placement Agreement is linked to the case plan and reviewed on a regular basis. For more information about case planning or Placement Agreements, contact your Child Safety Officer.

For more information visit www.childsafety.qld.gov.au

Or contact Child Safety Services on **1800 811 810** or **3224 8045**.