

Child Safety POLICY

Title: Support service case

Policy No: 406-7

Policy Statement:

The Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety (Child Safety) is committed to providing, or helping provide, preventative and support services to strengthen and support families.

Child Safety has a responsibility to offer a support service case to a pregnant person when it is determined that an unborn child will be a child in need of protection after he or she is born, or to a young person after their eighteenth birthday, who was previously in care, to support them to transition to adulthood. A support service case is short-term and supportive in nature and requires the consent of the pregnant person or young person.

The safe care and connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children with family, community, culture and country will be a key consideration when undertaking a support service case for an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander unborn child or young person.

Child Safety is committed to respecting, protecting and promoting human rights. Under the *Human Rights Act 2019*, Child Safety has an obligation to act and make decisions in a way that is compatible with human rights and, when making a decision, to give proper consideration to human rights.

Child Safety also has a legislative responsibility to take appropriate action when it is reasonably suspected that an unborn child will be in need of protection after he or she is born. Appropriate action includes offering help and support to the pregnant person to reduce the likelihood of the child needing protection after the birth.

The rights and liberties of the pregnant person will be respected and upheld when Child Safety takes action in relation to an unborn child.

Principles:

- The safety, wellbeing and best interests of the child, both throughout childhood and the rest of the child's life, are paramount.
- Every child has a right to protection from harm.
- In taking action to decrease the likelihood an unborn child will be in need of protection after their birth, Child Safety will respect and uphold the rights and liberties of the pregnant person.



- Support services should maintain family relationships and be supportive of individual rights and ethnic, religious and cultural identity and values.
- Young people have a right to be involved in making decisions and planning for their future.
- Young people transitioning from care to adulthood have the right to receive assistance and support in order to maximise their life opportunities and choices.
- Statutory powers should be exercised in a way that is open, fair and respects the rights of the child and their family.
- Child Safety will act and make decisions in a way that is compatible with human rights and obligations under the *Human Rights Act 2019*.
- An independent Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander entity for the child will be arranged for an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander unborn child, to help facilitate the pregnant person and the child's family participation, but only with the pregnant person's consent.
- Active efforts will be made to apply the five elements of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle (prevention, partnership, placement, participation and connection) outlined in the *Child Protection Act 1999* (the Act), section 5C, to all processes, decisions and actions for an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander young person, child or unborn child.

Objectives:

This policy aims to ensure that preventative and supportive services are offered by Child Safety to:

- a pregnant person, to decrease the likelihood of future harm to an unborn child following their birth
- a young person, following their eighteenth birthday, to help and support their transition to adulthood.

This policy also aims to ensure that:

- pregnant people and families are offered timely and effective help and support to reduce the likelihood that the child will need protection after birth.
- decisions made under the Act in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children promote their safe care and connection with family, community, culture and country and support the principle of self-determination.

Scope:

This policy refers to service provision by Child Safety, with consent, where:

- an unborn child has been assessed as needing protection after his or her birth
- a young person requires support to transition to adulthood.

Note: A young person may have been subject to a child protection order granting custody or guardianship to the chief executive, or previously subject to a child protection order where an approved carer was subsequently granted the long-term guardianship of the child.

When a support service case is opened, a support plan is developed with the pregnant person or young person. The support plan outlines the goals and actions required for the intervention, and is reviewed six-monthly, or more often if required. Support service cases are not subject to case planning and review requirements that are required for a child in need of protection.

Roles and Responsibilities:

The roles and responsibilities of Child Safety staff in relation to support service cases are outlined in the Child Safety Practice Manual and associated resources.

Authority:

Child Protection Act 1999, section 7(b)

Delegations:

Refer to the instruments of delegation for delegations relevant to support service cases.

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Date to be reviewed:	10 April 2027
Office:	Office of the Chief Practitioner
Help Contact:	Child Protection Practice

Links:

Procedure

Child Safety Practice Manual

Related policies

Responding to a notification (652)

Supporting children in the care of long-term guardians (607)

Related Legislation or Standard

Human Rights Act 2019

Public Guardian Act 2014

Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2009

Forms

Support plan

Rescinded Policy

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