

Who can I talk to if my guardian is not looking after me?

If you feel your guardian is not looking after you, there are people you can ask for help.

Here are some of the people you can talk to:

- **Child Safety Officer** — You can talk to a Child Safety Officer near you.
Phone: 1800 811 810
- **Office of the Public Guardian** — You can talk to a person called a Community Visitor or a Child Advocate.
Phone: 1800 661 533
Text: 0418 740 186
Email: publicguardian@publicguardian.qld.gov.au
- **You can also make a complaint to our Complaints Unit.**
Phone: 1800 080 464
Email: feedback@cyjma.qld.gov.au

Your long-term care

Information for young people



All children and young people deserve to live in a safe home with people who care for them.

If we don't think it's possible for you to live safely at home long term, we will need to talk to you, your parents, your carer, and other people who are important to you about where you will live and who will look after you.

The person who will look after you is called your guardian.

Your guardian will be someone you know and trust, like another member of your family or community, or your carer. They will care for you and make sure you have a safe home to live in until you turn 18.

Your guardian does not replace your parents but will make sure you are safe and cared for.

Do I get a say in who looks after me?

Yes. It is your right to have a say about where you will live and who will look after you.

Your Child Safety Officer will talk with you and listen to your views. They might have to tell other people about what you say and how you are feeling.

In deciding who your guardian will be, we consider whether the person is willing and able to meet all your needs.

If you are worried about the person who may become your guardian, it is important you tell your Child Safety Officer about how you feel.

When we have made a plan for your long-term care, we will ask the Childrens Court to make the final decision.

How will my guardian care for me?

Your guardian has the job of parenting you and making decisions about the important things in your life. You have the right to have your say on all these things too.

Many of the things that your Child Safety Officer does now will be done by your guardian, like:

- explaining your rights and making sure your rights are upheld
- preserving your identity and connection to your culture
- looking after your health
- making decisions about your education
- meeting your needs if you have a disability
- helping you prepare for adulthood.

Can I still see my family?

Yes. Your guardian will need to:

- tell your parents where you live, if it is safe to do so
- talk to your parents about how you are going
- help you stay connected to your family and other important people in your life.

