

**Community Services say
your child is not safe.**

the **Bumpy Road**

Easy English fact sheets for parents dealing with the child protection system. Advice from parents with experience.

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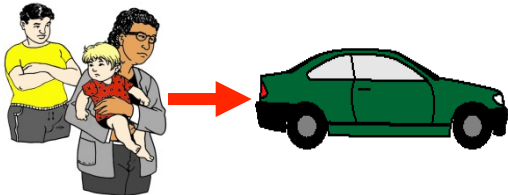


Some things Community Services may do.

1. Make a plan with you.

It is called a **safety plan**.

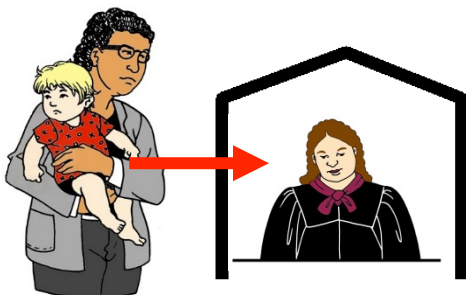
or



2. Take your child away.

It is for a short time only. This is called **temporary care arrangement**.

or



3. Take your child away.

You need to go to Court.

This is called to **remove your child**.



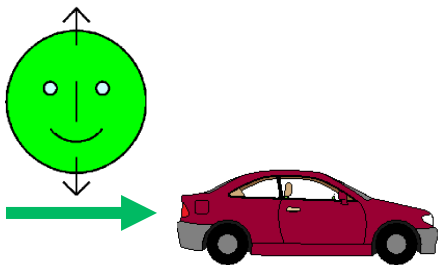
1. Make a plan with you



You and Community Service meet.

They want your child to be safe.

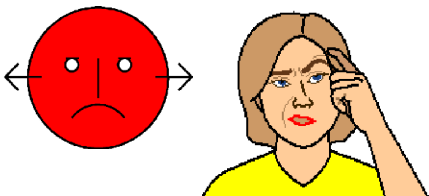
They will tell you things you need to do.



You must be able to do these things.

Only say yes to the things you will be able to do.

Like my partner is drinking all day. I will take my child to my mums place.



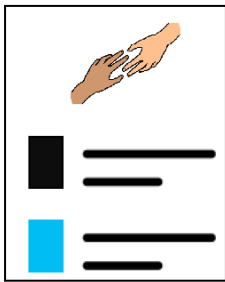
When you do **not** do these things

- you can get in to trouble
- your child may need to go to care.

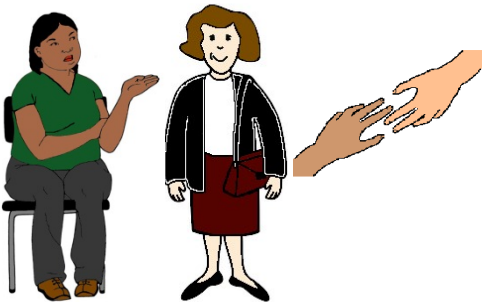
Then



They will make a plan with you.
It will help you do those things.



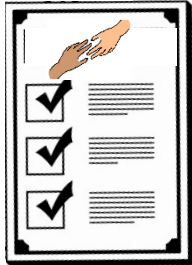
They write it all down. You can ask for it
in a way you can read and use.
Like in Easy English.
It will look like this fact sheet.



You can ask for help to know what you
need to do. Like talk to

- a support person
- an advocate.

Then



You need to sign your plan.

It means you agree to do everything
in your plan. This is your **Safety Plan**.

Then

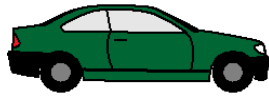


The staff will meet you again.

They will check

- you are doing the things in the plan
- do you still need the plan?

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2. Take your child away.

It is for a short time only

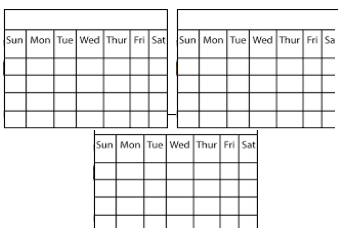


Some times it can be hard to look after your child. Like you get sick.

There is **no one** else to help you.



You say you need help.



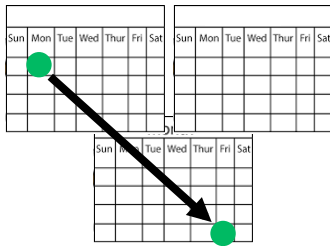
Community Services can help you.

They can find a family to look after your child.

It is for a short time. Like 3 months.



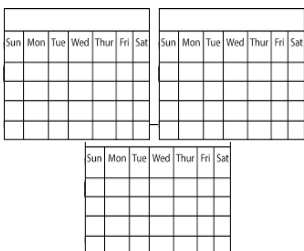
You can see your child in this time.



At the end of 3 months.



Community Services will check how you are.



Your child can stay with the other family
for 3 more months.



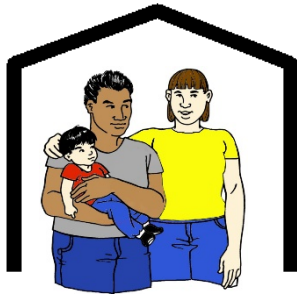
That is now 6 months.

We also call it half a year. Like all of

- February, March, April
- May, June, July.

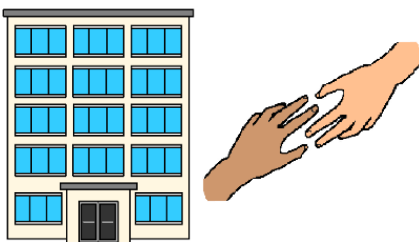


Then



Your child comes home.

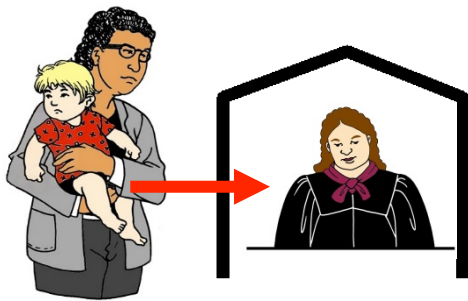
But



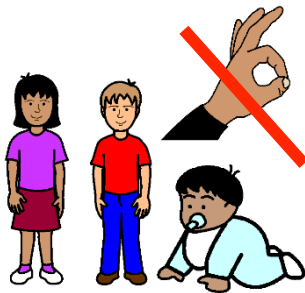
Sometimes you still can **not** look after your child.

That is ok. Community Services will help you.

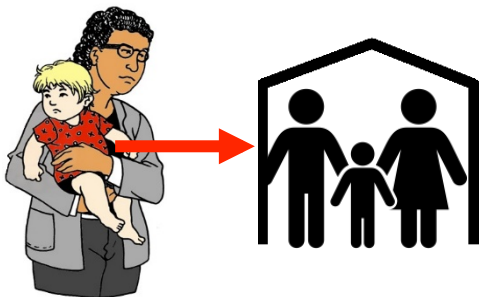
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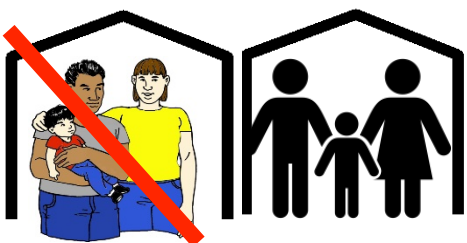
3. Take your child away



Community Services say your child is **not** safe.

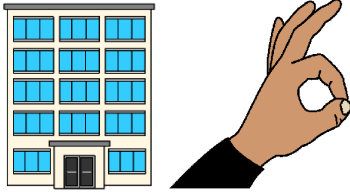


The staff will take your child to a new home.

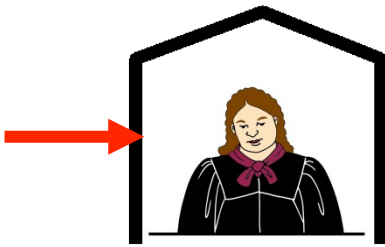


Your child will stay with a

- different member of your family
- or
- a family you do not know.



Community Services check your child will be safe there.



You need to go to Court about your child.

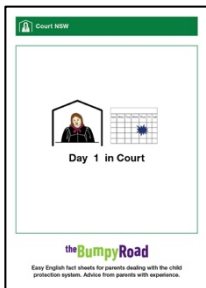


Read our fact sheets about Court.

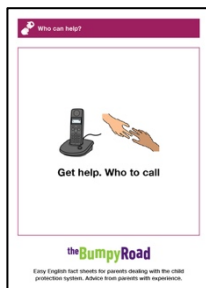
They will help you know what to do. Like

- Community Services took your child.

You need to go to Court



- Day 1 in Court.

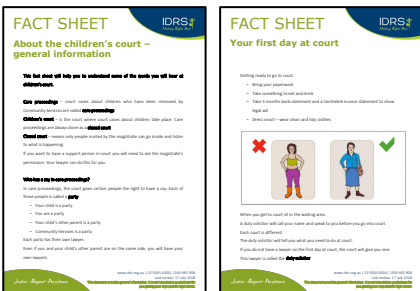


- Get help. Who to call.

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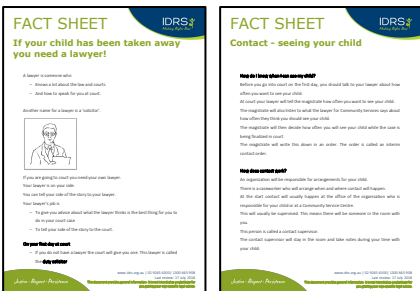


More information

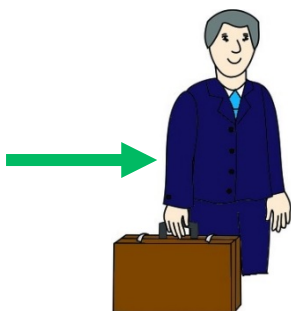


The Ability Rights Centre made fact sheets
See IDRS website www.idrs.org.au

- About the Childrens Court – general information



- Your first day at court
- If your child has been taken away you need a lawyer!
- Contact – seeing your child



This fact sheet is general information.

It may **not** be the same for you.

Talk to a lawyer about

- your own child
- your family.

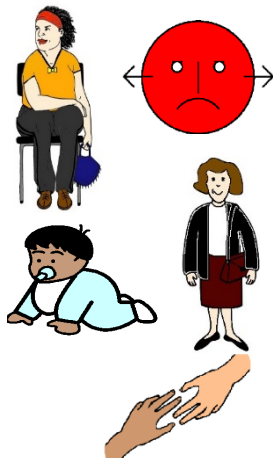


This fact sheet was made by

- The WASH House
 - The Ability Rights Centre. A service of IDRS
- with
- a Parent Advisory Group, 2020.

Images

We have used images from



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Access Easy English helped The Wash House

write the Easy English. February 2020.