



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Communities**

Rights for

Young People in Care

7-12 years

"It is a good idea to have a Charter of Rights for kids in care because I get to 'open up' to my case worker."

What is the Charter of Rights?

The Charter is a list of things informing how children and young people should be treated when they come into the care of the Department of Communities (the Department) in Western Australia.

All of these rights are important; however, some might be more important to you than others.

1.

I have the right to **get help with my education, care and health needs.**

2.

I have the right to **take part in hobbies, sport, music, dance and/or art** (and will do my best to develop my interests).

3.

I have the right to be **kept informed about my care plan and to have my views considered** (your case worker will explain what a care plan is).

4.

I have the right to **be respected** (and to treat others the same too).

5.

I have the right to **talk with my case worker, foster carer and/or the Advocate for Children in Care.**

6.

I have the right to **privacy and to have my own things.**

7.

I have the right to **be heard** (and to listen to other people's views and opinions).

8.

I have the right to **get help and support to go to court about my care.**

9.

I have the right to **have contact with my family and friends whenever possible.**

10.

I have the right to **be encouraged and supported in my religion and culture.**

11.

I have the right to **proper planning before leaving care.**

12.

I have the right to **be safe.**

What does it mean to come into care?

It means the Department is responsible for your wellbeing. Your case worker works with you and your carer to ensure you are being properly looked after, and that your care plan is being followed.

The plan includes things like where you live, the school you go to, the sports and activities you take part in and your other day-to-day needs including contact with your family.

Children come into the Department's care for different reasons. It is important that you understand why you are in care and how long you will be in care. Ask your case worker or carer if you are not sure.

Useful Numbers

Crisis Care

(08) 9223 1111 or Freecall* 1800 199 008

Kids Helpline

1800 551 800

Police

131 444 or 000 (emergency only)

Other

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Advocate for Children in Care

The Advocate for Children in Care can help you sort out complaints or problems with the Department and make sure you have a say in decisions that affect your life.

Office hours

9am - 5pm Monday to Friday

Freecall* **1800 460 696**

0429 086 508 (you can call, text or leave a message).

Email: advocate@communities.wa.gov.au

*freecall number - charges may apply for some mobile plans.