

Having a grandchild in your care



Financial support

Government payments

If you have a grandchild in your care, there are a number of payments you may be able to get. Contact the Family Assistance Office at the Commonwealth Department of Human Services on 136 150 for assistance.

Medicare benefits

You can claim Medicare benefits for medical expenses for your grandchild whilst they are in your care. Contact Medicare at the Commonwealth Department of Human Services on 132 011.

Child support

It may be possible to get child support payments from your grandchild's parents. Child support can be a complex part of family law. It is important to get legal advice about this before you apply. You can get legal advice about child support from any legal aid commission or some community legal centres.

Help at legal aid

The first step is to get legal advice about your individual circumstances.

Telephone information and legal advice

Call the Legal Aid telephone service. This service provides free information and/or can refer you to other services which may help.

Legal advice

You may be able to go to your local legal aid office to speak to a lawyer face-to-face in private, or obtain an advice session over the phone. These are generally short sessions in which brief advice is given. Most legal aid offices provide this service free of charge; however, some may require a small fee. Contact the telephone service to find out the availability of these sessions.

Family law duty lawyer

If you need to go to court you may be able to see a duty lawyer on the day for advice if you have not had time to get legal help. Duty lawyers are very busy so it is always best to get legal help before you go to court.

Family law information sessions

Legal aid lawyers sometimes run family law information sessions. These sessions give information only. Legal advice is not given on individual cases at these sessions. Contact your local legal aid office to find out if there are any family law information sessions offered in your area.

Representation

Once you have received some advice, you may need to apply for legal aid. If legal aid is granted, you will have a legal aid lawyer represent you in your matter.

Family dispute resolution conferences

These conferences aim to resolve family disputes at an early stage. Everyone involved has a chance to work out an agreement without going to court. If agreement is reached, consent orders may be drafted and filed with the court.

You may need to go to one of these conferences if you receive legal aid for your family law matter and cannot reach agreement with the other party.

For further information see the contact details below.

Legal Aid Queensland

For more information about our services: 1300 65 11 88

Brisbane

44 Herschel St

Bundaberg

2nd Floor, WIN Tower, Cnr Quay & Barolin Sts

Caboolture

Ground Floor, Kingsgate, 42 King St

Cairns

Level 2, Cairns Square Complex, Cnr Abbott & Shields St

Inala

Level 1, Inala Commonwealth Offices, 20 Wirraway Parade

Ipswich

97 Brisbane St

Mackay

Ground Floor, 17 Brisbane St

Maroochydore

Ground Floor, M1 Building, 1 Duporth Ave

Mount Isa

6 Miles St

Rockhampton

Ground Floor, 35 Fitzroy St

Southport

1st Floor, 100 Scarborough St

Toowoomba

1st Floor, 154 Hume St

Townsville

3rd Floor, Northtown, 280 Flinders St

Woodridge

1st Floor, Woodridge Place, Cnr Ewing Road & Carmody St

www.legalaid.qld.gov.au



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