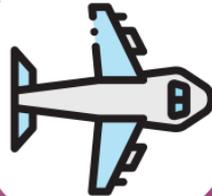
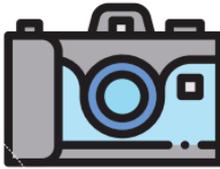


# Who can say OK?

Your quick guide to decision-making



Government of South Australia  
Department for Child Protection



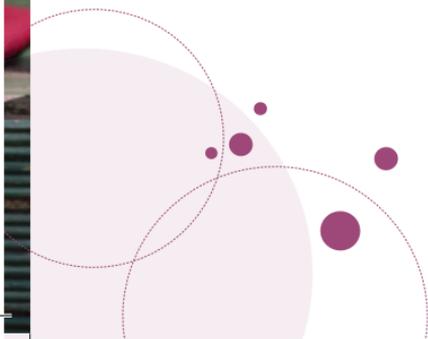


**Who Can Say OK?** at a glance has been developed to support you in your important role as a carer. Here you'll find basic information about which decisions you can make on your own, and those you need to discuss with the Department for Child Protection (DCP).

These are everyday decisions all families make about children and young people, such as what to do when there's a medical problem, getting a new hair cut or going on a holiday.

This guide does not cover every decision you need to make. For a more comprehensive guide, visit [www.childprotection.sa.gov.au/who-can-say-OK](http://www.childprotection.sa.gov.au/who-can-say-OK) or contact your caseworker.

To find out who pays for what, please see the 'Who pays for what?' document on the DCP website or contact your caseworker.



## EDUCATION

Education is essential for the development and wellbeing of all children and young people. All children and young people between 6 and 16 years must by law be enrolled in school and fully participate in their school's education program.

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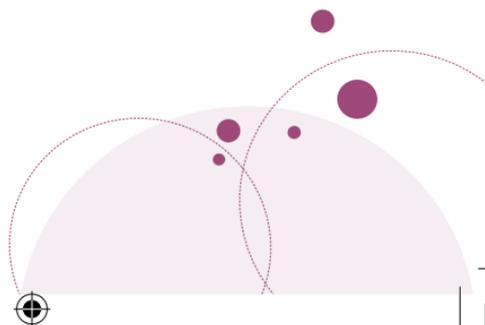
|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| Enrol at school   |   |    |
| Transfer to a new school  |   |    |
| School excursions and activities  |    |   |
| Camps (in SA)   |    |   |
| Camps (interstate)  |   |  |
| Before and after school care (unplanned or infrequent arrangement)      |  |   |
| Before and after school care (planned or frequent arrangement)          |   |  |
| School photos where the child's care status or identity is not revealed |  |   |
| School photos where the child's care status or identity is revealed     |   |  |

## HEALTH

It is essential that all children and young people have access to quality health care to address their medical needs and support their healthy development. Who can make decisions about a child in care depends on the seriousness of the medical intervention.

|  | Carer   | DCP   |
|--|---|---|
| Medical and dental (general)   |    |   |
| Surgery (non-urgent)   |   |    |
| Surgery (urgent)   |  * |   |
| Immunisation   |    |   |
| Ambulance  |   |   |
| Medicare cards (for children under 15 years). Children over 15 can apply themselves. |   |  |
| Healthcare cards   |   |  |

\* in consultation with a medical practitioner



## IDENTITY AND CONNECTION WITH FAMILY

Carers should actively support all children in their care to engage in activities that ensure they remain connected to family, community, language, religion and culture. This should occur in consultation with the case worker as part of a child's case plan.

Maintaining contact with their family will enhance a child's psychological wellbeing and identity. Contact can be between a child and a parent, sibling, or extended family member.

|   | Carer   | DCP   |
|---|---|---|
| Contact arrangements  |   |    |
| Haircuts  |   |   |
| Visits to Country   |   |  |
| Attendance at cultural events   |   |  |
| Recognising a significant event in a child's life (birthday, Christmas, religious festival) |  |   |
| Name change   |   |  |
| Changing religion   |   |  |

## LEGAL MATTERS

There will be times when the child or young person in your care can legally make their own decisions, and times when you will need to consult with DCP. As a carer you are expected to guide and support the child or young person when decisions of a legal nature are needed.

|                           | Carer  | DCP   |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| Pocket money              |   |   |
| Marriage                  |  |  |
| Police interviews         |   |  |
| Bail and payment of fines |  |  |
| Bank accounts             |  |   |





## MISSING CHILDREN

If a child or young person in your care is missing, you need to assess how urgently you think a response is needed. For children under 10 years of age and those you believe to be in danger you should contact SAPOL on 000 immediately.

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|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| Missing person reports   |  |   |
| Public media campaigns<br>(requesting the release of a photograph) |   |  |

## MOBILE PHONE AND THE INTERNET

A request from a child or young person for a mobile phone falls within the range of day-to-day decisions that all families must make. When making this decision it is also important to consider a child or young person's use of social media and the internet.

If you are concerned about a child or young person in your care having a mobile phone, you should discuss this with the child's DCP case worker.

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|                 |   |  |
|-----------------|---|--|
| Mobile phone    |  |  |
| Internet safety |  |  |



## PREPARATION FOR ADULTHOOD

All parents face challenges when making decisions for a young person as they approach adulthood. You will be asked to weigh up how you protect a young person in your care while allowing them the freedom to make their own decisions. It is essential that you talk to the young person in your care when decisions need to be made, and that you provide guidance that gives a young person every opportunity to make decisions that are in their best interests.

|                  | Carer  | DCP   |
|------------------|--|---|
| Driver's licence |   |  |
| Driving lessons  |   |  |
| Employment       |  |   |



## SLEEPOVERS AND BABYSITTING

Allowing a child to sleepover with friends contributes to their development as an individual and builds confidence and resilience. Particular care should be taken to ensure the child is going to a safe environment. If you have any concerns, discuss a possible sleepover with the child's DCP case worker.

|   | Carer   | DCP   |
|---|---|---|
| Overnight stays (one-off activities including sleepovers, up to 2 nights).  |    |   |
| Overnight stays (3 or more nights)  |   |    |
| Respite care (regular, short, planned and agreed periods of time)           |   |   |
| Babysitting (once-off or infrequent arrangements)                           |  |   |
| Babysitting (planned and frequent arrangements including formal child care) |   |  |

## TRAVEL, SPORT AND RECREATION

Carers are encouraged to include children in their care on family trips and holidays where this does not conflict with the child's case plan or family contact. Remember to always keep your caseworker informed about your travel plans and provide contact details and travel dates.

|   | Carer   | DCP   |
|---|---|---|
| Recreational, leisure, sporting and community activities (low-risk) |  |   |
| High-risk activities such as scuba diving or rock climbing.         |   |    |
| Holidays and travel (local or interstate day trips)                 |  |   |
| Holidays and travel (other interstate or overseas)                  |   |  |
| Passport applications   |   |  |



**Government of South Australia**

Department for Child Protection

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