



ALS

Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) Limited

Dealing with FaCS during court proceedings

- Information about child protection and FaCS -

If FaCS have removed children from your care, you may feel angry.

If FaCS have removed children from your care, you may think it's really unfair.

If FaCS have removed children from your care, you may not want to talk to your case worker.

Despite these feelings, how you communicate with your caseworker is very important.

Keep talking with your caseworker

As soon as FaCS becomes involved with you, try to talk and listen to them *all the the time*.

Ask them about what child protection concerns they may have. Listen to what you are expected to do to address these concerns.

Go to the Case Plan meeting

If FaCS have started court proceedings, your caseworker may ask you to attend a Case Plan



*Please note,
DoCS is now
called FaCS,
or the
Department
of Family and
Community
Services.*

Advice on working with FaCS...

Information for families about working with FaCS and caseworkers

meeting. Go to this meeting. It is an opportunity to understand what FaCS is concerned about. It will also help you understand what FaCS is asking you to do.

Talk about seeing your kids

Make sure you talk to your caseworker about arrangements for seeing your kids.

Make sure you see your kids

If you can't make contact with your kids, or you need to change the date or time, call and let the caseworker know. Don't leave it till 5 minutes beforehand or not turn up at all. This does not look good.

Go to the Care Plan meeting

Often FaCS have conversations with you at what's called a Care Plan meeting. If you are asked to attend a Care Plan meeting it is very important that you attend. It's also a good idea to take a support person with you.

At the Care Plan meeting

FaCS have to keep talking to you about what they are doing. FaCS has to work out whether they think your child can come home. FaCS has to make recommendations to the court about who will care for the children in the future. These recommendations will be written down into a document called a Care Plan.

As part of making the Care Plan, FaCS needs to talk to you about what recommendations they will be making to the court for your children's future care. FaCS should explain to you the reasons for their recommendations. FaCS will ask you what you want.

Talk with your solicitor

Talk with your solicitor regularly. Tell your solicitor what you're talking to your caseworker about. This will help the solicitor when they have to tell the court about what progress you're making in addressing the concerns of FaCS.



Care and Protection
Law Practice

WE CAN HELP

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