



ALS

Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) Limited

What if FaCS phone or come to my home?

- Information about child protection and FaCS -

IF FACS RECEIVE INFORMATION OR A REPORT
THAT YOUR KIDS MAY BE AT RISK OF HARM:

- They may want to investigate to make sure your kids are safe
- They may want to talk to you about your children
- They may call you
- They may come around to your house

IF FACS PHONES YOU OR COMES AROUND
TO YOUR HOME:

- Don't ignore them
- Don't refuse to talk to them
- Listen to what they tell you
- Listen to what they say about your kids
- Say you want to get legal advice

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



Phone ALS Care and Protection Law Practice
PHONE 1800 733 233 or 02 8836 3444

www.alsnswact.org.au

August 2016

If FaCS come to your home...

Information for families about child protection and the role of FaCS

IF FACS CONTACT YOU, CALL ALS FOR FREE LEGAL ADVICE.

The ALS Solicitor will help you understand your legal rights. They will also give you advice about the best way to deal with FaCS. Call ALS 1800 733 233.

IF A FACS CASEWORKER WANTS TO MEET WITH YOU, ASK THEM WHY THEY WANT TO MEET WITH YOU. TELL THEM YOU WANT TO GET LEGAL ADVICE FIRST.

Don't ignore a FaCS caseworker. Don't refuse to talk to them.

Ask the FaCS caseworker to explain what the meeting is about. Tell the FaCS caseworker you want to get legal advice first. Phone ALS 1800 733 233 for legal advice.

After you have organised a time and place to meet with the FaCS caseworker, make sure you go to the meeting. If something happens and you can't go to the meeting, call the FaCS caseworker to let them know.

When you meet with the FaCS caseworker, listen to what they have to say.

TAKE A SUPPORT PERSON TO THE MEETING.

You can take a support person to your meeting with FaCS. The support person can be a friend, a family member, or a co-worker. You are allowed to do this.

WRITE DOWN WHAT IS BEING SAID AT THE MEETING.

Ask your support person to write down what is being said at the meeting with the FaCS Caseworker. If your support person can't do this, ask the caseworker for a copy. You can ask the Caseworker for a copy of their notes. You will then have a record of what was said at the meeting. Keep this safe.



AFTER THE MEETING WITH FACS, GET LEGAL ADVICE.

The solicitor can talk with you about any concerns you have. They can talk with you about what FaCS have said about your kids. The solicitor can help you find support services to assist you in addressing the caseworker's concerns. Call ALS 1800 733 233

KEEP A DIARY OF ALL YOUR CONVERSATIONS WITH THE CASEWORKER.

Every time you talk to the Caseworker, write down the date and the time in a diary or notebook. Write down what the Caseworker said to you. Write down what you said back to them. Keep the diary in a safe place.

DON'T SIGN ANYTHING! GET LEGAL ADVICE FIRST.

If your caseworker asks you to sign an agreement about keeping your children safe, say you can't sign it yet. Say you want to get legal advice first. Call ALS 1800 733 233

**Phone ALS Care and Protection Law Practice
PHONE 1800 733 233 or 02 8836 3444**