



Aboriginal Family Support Services

Together with the community

Child Protection Reform – Aboriginal Community Engagement Project

Fact Sheet 3 - Onus on the Parents

Onus on the Objector – What does this mean?

As a parent what does “Onus on the Objector to prove to the Courts that an Order should not be made” mean?

You have had your child removed from your care and now child protection wants to put your child or children under an order for 12 months as they do not believe that you can look after your child properly.

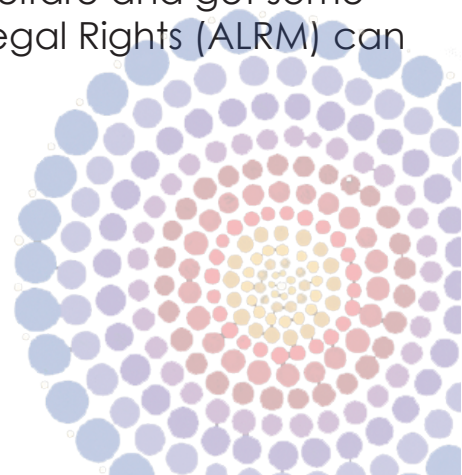
As a parent it is up to you to be able to tell the Magistrate at the Court why you should be allowed to have your child or children come home to you.

- *How scary is this?*
- *Would you know how to prove that you can look after your child?*
- *Would you know what to say in the Court? Most of us wouldn't.*

So – it is really important that you get a support person to help you through this very stressful time.

You need to know exactly what it is that welfare is worried about. Ask a lot of questions.

You need to get the court report from welfare and get some legal advice straight away. Aboriginal Legal Rights (ALRM) can help with the legal stuff.



What can you do?

- Talk to AFSS and get involved with our Aboriginal Community Engagement Project. You can also think about becoming an AFSS foster carer, ensuring we have a large pool of Aboriginal foster carers to care for children who are removed from their families. The more carers we have, the better the options of Aboriginal children being placed with Aboriginal families.
- Contact AFSS in your local area and speak with an AFSS worker.
- You can also contact the AFSS Child Protection Reform – Aboriginal Community Engagement Project:

Brigitte Goepfert (Project Officer – Child Protection Reform)

Address: 134 Waymouth Street Adelaide SA 5000

Phone: 8205 1500

Mobile: 0499 889 720

Email: brigitte.goepfert@afss.com.au

Other useful contacts:

Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement (ALRM)

Phone: 1800 643 222 Website: www.alrm.org.au

Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People

Phone: 8226 3355 Email: CommissionerCYP@sa.gov.au

Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement

Phone: 8226 3500 Email: DPC.CommissionerforAboriginalEngagement@sa.gov.au

Commissioner for Children and Young People

Phone: 8226 3355 Email: CommissionerCYP@sa.gov.au

DCP Central Complaints Unit

Phone: 1800 003 305 Website: www.childprotection.sa.gov.au/departments/contact-department/making-complaint

Family Matters

Phone: 8305 4213 Email: joanne@childandfamily-sa.org.au

Office of the Guardian for Children and Young People

Phone: 8226 8570 Email: GCYP@GCYP.sa.gov.au Website: www.gcyp.sa.gov.au

SA Ombudsman

Phone: 1800 182 150 Email: ombudsman@ombudsman.sa.gov.au



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