

RESOURCE BOOKLETS for Kinship Carers

Court orders **The role of Child Protection** **and the courts**





GPV/KCV acknowledges the peoples of the Kulin nation as the traditional owners of our great land and offers respect to Elders, past and present.

GPV/KCV acknowledges that the Aboriginal culture existed in Australia before European settlement and consisted of many community groups. Further, we acknowledge the Indigenous peoples of this land as the oldest continuing cultures in human history.

GPV/KCV acknowledges that laws and policies of the past have inflicted grief and suffering on our fellow Australians and regrets the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families.

GPV/KCV believes that a society that is inclusive of all is crucial to individual and community wellbeing and will behave with respect towards all irrespective of their race, religion, sexuality, gender or socio-economic background.

GPV/KCV acknowledges 13th of February as National Apology Day, the anniversary of then Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, delivering the National Apology to Australia's Indigenous Peoples in 2008. GPV/KCV will take steps that promote a happier and healthier future for Indigenous Australians, particularly the children and young people.

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Key words which influence GPV/KCV approaches are: Truthfulness, Confidentiality, Inclusiveness, Integrity, Constancy, Gratitude, Commitment, Compassion

Kinship Carers Victoria
acknowledges the support of the
Victorian government.



Families,
Fairness
and Housing

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<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/podcasts-videos/>

Part 1

Victoria



Families,
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The role of the Victorian Child Protection Service

Meeting the needs of children and making sure they are safe in the family is a shared responsibility between individuals, the family, the community and the government. When adults caring for children do not follow through with their responsibilities, are abusive or exploit their positions of power, then Child Protection is empowered to investigate the concerns and intervene to protect the child legally when required.

The Victorian Child Protection Service is specifically targeted to support those children and young people at risk of harm or where families are unable to protect them.

The main functions of Child Protection are to:

- Investigate matters where it is alleged that a child is at risk of significant harm
- Refer children and families to services that assist in providing the ongoing safety and wellbeing of children
- Make applications to the Children's Court if the child's safety cannot be ensured within the family
- Administer protection orders granted by the Children's Court.

Under the *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005*, Child Protection or an authorised Aboriginal agency provides services to protect children and young people from significant harm. Child Protection or an authorised Aboriginal agency will take all reasonable steps to enable the child or young person to stay at home with their own family, where it is safe to do so. However, some children and young people are placed in out-of-home care for their own safety.

When a child needs an out-of-home care placement, it is a legislative requirement that kinship care be investigated before other out-of-home care placement options are pursued.

The Aboriginal Child Placement Principle requires that preference be given to Aboriginal extended family or relatives, or where this is not possible, other extended family or relatives are the next preferred care option for an Aboriginal child or young person.

Voluntary involvement with Child Protection

Voluntary placements may occur with or without the involvement of Child Protection. Kinship care placements instigated by Child Protection may or may not involve an order made through the Children's Court. This can occur when there is no order in place and a child protection intervention has occurred, the carer has been assessed and approved, and the placement has been endorsed by Child Protection. **An order may not be required if the parents consent to the placement, but where there would be significant concerns for the child or young person if they were to return to their care.** In this circumstance, Child Protection has assessed that the kinship placement is required.

The role of the Victorian Children's Court

In Victoria, the Family Division of the Children's Court decides whether a child or young person is in need of protection, and makes the appropriate protection order. Court proceedings are almost always initiated by Child Protection.

In some circumstances, a child or young person may be placed in care by a bail justice. A bail justice hearing occurs when a child or young person is taken into emergency care and the court will not be sitting within 24 hours. The emergency care application is then heard in the Children's Court on the next working day. The Family Court of Australia is separate from the Children's Court and administers Australia's family law. A protection order takes priority over a family court order.

Children's Court processes

At court, legal representatives for Child Protection or the authorised Aboriginal agency, the child or young person, and the parents of the child or young person will advocate on behalf of their client and present their client's views about the child or young person's ongoing care. The magistrate makes a decision based on the information presented.

Child Protection or the authorised Aboriginal agency will prepare a detailed report for the Court that outlines their assessment of the family situation, their recommendations about care for the child or young person, and the type of protection order they think is best for them. Also submitted to the Court at this time is the child or young person's case plan, which covers significant decisions about the child or young person.

Child Protection or the authorised Aboriginal agency base their report and case plan on information gathered from many sources.

The primary carer. The primary carer is in a unique position to gain insight into the needs of the child or young person in their care. The primary carer can present their views during care team meetings, or can advise Child Protection or their agency about their views.

Child Protection or the authorised Aboriginal agency cannot give a copy of the court report to the primary carer, an agency or other service, including the police, without consent of the child or young person, or their parents. This means copies of the court reports are not automatically provided to the primary carer. When asked for a child or young person's protection order, the primary carer may be asked by childcare, schools or other professionals for a copy of the child or young person's protection order. The primary carer can let them know they can ask for that directly from Child Protection or the authorised Aboriginal agency, or the primary carer could ask the child or young person's child protection worker or agency case manager to provide this information.

Attendance by kinship carers

Making a decision as the carer to attend court can be complicated, and may not be in the best interests of the carer or the child or young person. The carer will need to consider this carefully, and discuss their decision with Child Protection or the carer's agency.

Party to proceedings

It is not generally necessary for kinship carers to become parties to proceedings. For example, where the department's recommendation to the Children's Court is consistent with the views of the kinship carer, it would not usually be necessary for them to be joined as parties to proceedings.

Other factors to consider may include:

- that by joining the proceedings, kinship carers would be expected to fully participate in the proceedings, which may mean significant time and financial commitment, such as the requirement to attend multiple hearings
- the impact on the relationship between the kinship carer and other family members, if the kinship carer joins the proceedings and advocates for a position that is contrary to the views of the parents, the child or young person, or other family members. A kinship carer is not automatically a party to proceedings. However, if a kinship carer wants to be joined as a party, they will need to satisfy the Children's Court that they have a 'direct interest in the proceeding' and that it is practicable for them to be joined.

If a kinship carer wants to apply to be joined to the proceedings, they need to inform registry staff on the morning of the court case, notify the department of their application and make an oral application to the magistrate in open court. All parties to the case will be asked to indicate whether they agree or disagree with the kinship carer's application. If the magistrate grants the kinship carer's application, they will be given time to seek legal representation if they wish.

Attendance by the child or young person

All children and young people should be given the opportunity to decide whether or not to attend court. They are not required to attend unless they:

- wish to do so
- are ordered by the Court to attend.

All children and young people aged 10 years or older will be legally represented in proceedings in the Family Division of the Children's Court, except where the Court determines that the child or young person is developmentally not able to provide instructions. A child under 10 years, or a child over 10 years or more whom the Court has determined is not able to give instructions, may be legally represented, if the Court determines it is in the best interests of the child or young person. If the child or young person decides not to attend court, they must still provide their instructions to a legal representative, and this is arranged away from the Court by their child protection worker or agency case manager. Phone instructions may be provided with the prior agreement of the child or young person's legal representative.

Aboriginal children and young people may be represented by the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service or the Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service. If the child and young person is required or chooses to attend the Court, they may see their parents, siblings or other family members. If this is a concern for them, a carer can discuss this with Child Protection or the carer's agency, so that plans can be made to support them. If a child or young person does decide to go to court, or is required to attend, Child Protection or the agency will arrange to transport them.

Preparing a child or young person for attending court

To help children and young people who want to attend court, the carer needs to find out some details, such as:

- who will be at court – family members, lawyers and court staff
- what everyone's role is in court – the magistrate, the clerk and lawyers
- what the department is recommending about their care and why
- what will be expected of them
- how long the process will take.

Supporting the child or young person when they attend court

A child or young person in care may need a lot of support from their carer if they have to attend court. While at court, they may hear discussions about why they are not living with their parents or other family members. This could be upsetting to them and they may need extra emotional support following court. Carers should also prepare the child or young person for the possibility that their parents may not attend court.

If a child or young person is required or wishes to attend court, there are strategies a carer can use to help them lessen feelings of being stressed, pressured, confused or bored. For example, the carer can take quiet activities to court, such as colouring books or reading material, and some snacks and drinks, as there can be lengthy waiting times. Carers can talk to the child or young person's child protection worker or agency case manager if they think the child or young person is feeling stressed or pressured. The child protection worker or agency case manager will advise the carer and the child or young person of the outcome of the proceedings. Carers may find that the child or young person does not fully understand the outcome and have more questions. If carers find this is the case, they can raise any questions with the child or young person's child protection worker or agency case manager.

The Children's Court – Information for Young People during the COVID-19 Response

<https://www.cpmanual.vic.gov.au/childrens-court-information-young-people-during-covid>

Types of Child Protection orders in Victoria

Interim accommodation order

An interim accommodation order is an order for the temporary placement of a child, pending the final determination of an application. This order is made when the magistrate at the Children's Court believes there are issues to be resolved about a child or young person's safety and wellbeing. The order specifies where the child or young person will live until the next court date.

Protection orders

The court may make a protection order if it finds that:

- **the child is in need of protection; or**
- **there is a substantial and irreconcilable difference between the person who has parental responsibility for the child.**

If the court finds the child is in need of protection, the court may make any one of the following protection orders.

Undertaking – protection order

This occurs when the Court has decided that a child or young person is in need of protection and that future risks can be sufficiently managed by the parent and child or young person with community support. An undertaking may require a child, parents or person who the child is living with to do, or not do, certain things for a specified period. Once an undertaking is given the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) has no further involvement with the child or family.

An undertaking may require the child or young person, their parent(s) or the person with whom the child or young person is living, to undertake in writing to do, or refrain from doing, actions specified in the undertaking.

An undertaking can only be made if the person entering into the undertaking consents to the order.

Family preservation order

A family preservation order gives the DFFH responsibility for the supervision of the child for a specified period but does not affect a person's parental responsibility for the child. This order provides for the child to live with and be placed in the day to day care of one or both of the child's parents. The DFFH supervise the care for the child during the period of the order.

Family reunification order

This order gives parental responsibility for the child to the DFFH but does not affect the parental responsibility of any other person for the child in making decisions about major long-term issues (subject to the court deciding otherwise). Major long-term issues include issues about a child's education, religious and cultural upbringing, long term health and a child's name.

Care by Secretary order

This occurs when the Court has decided that family reunification will not be achieved in a timely way for the child or young person, or the child or young person has been in out-of-home care for more than 24 months and cannot safely return to their parents' care.

This order is made for a period of two years and the Secretary of the department or Principal Officer of an Aboriginal agency has parental responsibility for the child or young person, to the exclusion of all others. This order does not include conditions.

Long-term care order

This occurs when the Court has decided that the child or young person is in need of long-term care and there is a suitable carer available to raise the child or young person.

This order gives sole parental responsibility for a child to the DFFH. The order remains in force until the child turns 18 or marries. The child lives with the same person or persons (who are not a parent) until the order is finished.

Permanent care order

This occurs when the Court has found proposed permanent carers suitable to have parental responsibility for the child or young person, to the exclusion of all others, until the child or young person turns 18 or marries, whichever happens first.

Apart from the care allowance, once this order is issued, the DFFH has no further role with the child or young person or carers. The order must include a condition that a person caring for a child or young person must, in the best interests of the child or young person, preserve their identity and connection to their culture of origin, and their relationships with their birth parents and family, unless the Court decides otherwise.

Part 2

The Family Court of Australia



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The Family Court of Australia

The Family Court hears matters under the *Family Law Act 1975*. In Victoria, there are family courts located in Melbourne and Dandenong, and circuit court sittings are held periodically in major country centres. The Family Court can make orders in relation to parental responsibility, whom a child or young person should live with or spend time and communicate with, and the financial support of a child or young person.

The Family Court also has jurisdiction to make orders relating to the welfare of children. In deciding whether to make an order relating to the welfare of a child, the Court must regard the best interests of the child or young person as the paramount consideration.

Family Court orders and agreements

Parenting order

A parenting order is a set of orders made by the Court about parenting arrangements for a child or young person. Kinship carers can apply for parenting orders. A court can make a parenting order based on an agreement between the parties or after a court hearing or trial. When a parenting order is made, each person affected by the order must follow it.

If carers reach an agreement with the parents, then carers can make a parenting plan or file consent orders through the Family Court.

A parenting plan

This records arrangements that carers and the parents agree to, and often these are made with the help of a family mediator. A parenting plan is not a legally enforceable agreement. It is different from a parenting order, which is made by the Court. Carers should contact their nearest Family Relationship Centre for more information.

A consent order

This is a written agreement that is approved by the Court, so it becomes an enforceable court order. Carers will usually need to seek legal assistance to do this, as consent orders are often used when there are court proceedings occurring in relation to a child or young person.

If the parents do not want a written agreement or carers cannot reach agreement about certain issues, carers can obtain legal advice about their options, which may include initiating court proceedings for a parenting order. If carers want a legally enforceable agreement, they will need to get legal advice or contact a Family Relationship Centre in their area.

For more information, contact the Family Relationship Advice Line on **1800 050 321** or visit: <https://www.familyrelationships.gov.au/talk-someone/advice-line>

Court cases can be emotionally and financially draining, so careful thought that is guided by sound legal advice is strongly recommended. Carers should remember to ask for an estimate of costs, and consider how and when payment will be made.

Complying with orders

Orders made through the Family Court will usually include orders about whom the child or young person will have regular contact with and how often, unless it is considered not to be in the child or young person's best interests. Carers are required to adhere to the orders and assist the child or young person to do so, even if this is difficult.

If carers have ongoing concerns or problems with the arrangements that cannot be resolved, they should seek legal advice. If carers have serious and immediate concerns about the safety of the child, they should contact the police or Child Protection.

If there are Family Court orders in place and Child Protection receive a report that a child or young person is at risk of significant harm, Child Protection will assess these concerns. If the child is in need of protection, a Children's Court order can take precedence over an order of the Family Court.



Getting legal support and advice

Carers may wish to seek legal advice to help them understand their legal rights and responsibilities, and explain how the law applies to their case. Other than from a private law firm, kinship carers may seek legal advice from the following organisations.

Law Institute of Victoria Legal Referral Service

The Legal Referral Service is a service provided by the Law Institute of Victoria (LIV) that gives referrals to lawyers and is able to offer support in languages other than English.

Law firms listed with the service will provide an initial consultation of up to 30 minutes free of charge. This is usually enough time for a lawyer to make an overall assessment of a matter. Carers should discuss fees and charges with the lawyers they are referred to, because their normal fees and charges will apply after the initial 30-minute consultation.

There are two options for obtaining a letter of referral: a phone service or an online service.

By phone, carers will be able to speak to a staff representative who can provide assistance if carers are unsure about the kind of lawyer they will need. Please note that LIV do not have lawyers answering the phone and they do not provide legal advice. For phone referrals, call **(03) 9670 9550**.

The LIV online service provides the convenience of being able to request a referral at any time of the day or night and to search the listings of lawyers and firms oneself.

Online referrals website

https://liv.asn.au/Web/Content/For_the_Public/Referral/Referral_Search.aspx

Court Network Children's Court Program

Volunteer Court Networkers provide services to all people attending Children's Court. This includes children, parent(s), grandparent(s), extended family and friends who are appearing at court.

Court Network volunteers can:

- provide practical and emotional support about going to court
- provide personal support on the day(s) in court
- explain how the court and the legal system operate
- provide a safe place in court
- refer carers to other services that may help.

Court Network support is provided through personally approaching the service at court, through telephone referral, and by community agencies requesting the service. Court Network has contact with an extensive number of agencies and practitioners from whom they accept referrals. These include Grandparents Victoria/Kinship Carers Victoria. Carers may also refer themselves to the program.

For further information about the Court Network service, call the Court Network Telephone Information and Referral Services on Freecall **1800 681 614** or **(03) 9603 7433** or check the website: <https://www.justice.vic.gov.au/>

The Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service Co-operative Limited (VALS)

VALS provides support and referrals to community services and mainstream agencies, and works with clients to help with initial information, minor assistance such as helping with phone calls or letters, advocacy to other services, referrals, and assistance to attend court.

VALS was established as a community controlled Co-operative Society in 1973. VALS plays an important role in providing referrals, advice/information, duty work or case work assistance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the State of Victoria. Solicitors at VALS specialise in one of three areas of law, being Criminal Law, Family Law and Civil Law.

VALS strives to:

- promote social justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- promote the right of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to empowerment, identity and culture
- ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples enjoy their rights, are aware of their responsibilities under the law and have access to appropriate advice, assistance and representation
- reduce the disproportionate involvement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the criminal justice system
- promote the review of legislation and other practices which discriminate against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

The Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service Co-operative Limited (VALS) provides localised services, assistance and support.

273 High St, Preston VIC 3072 | vals@vals.org.au | 1800 064 865

<https://www.vals.org.au>



Victoria Legal Aid

Victorian Legal Aid (VLA) provides free legal information and education with a focus on prevention and early resolution of legal problems. VLA also provides more intense legal services such as legal advice and representation for people who meet eligibility criteria, based on their financial situation, the nature and seriousness of their problem and their individual circumstances. VLA serves the Victorian community in the following areas:

- **Access and equity** assisting people dealing with legal issues by ensuring that VLA services are accessible.
- **Civil justice and administrative laws**, with an aim to contribute to inclusive and right-respecting community, addressing such matters as social security, mental health, guardianship and administration, infringements, immigration, tenancy, debt, discrimination, sexual harassment and victims of crime.
- **Criminal law** providing high-quality legal advice and representation for people charged with criminal offences who cannot otherwise afford legal assistance and who meet our eligibility criteria.
- **Chambers** providing advocacy for legally aided clients in civil, criminal and family, youth and children's law.
- **Family law** resolving family disputes and responding to state intervention to archive safe, workable and child-focused care arrangements for children. VLA helps to build capacity to resolve future disputes with legal assistance. They also assist with family violence intervention order matters.
- **Mental health advocacy** to assist people on compulsory treatment orders with support and advocacy to assist them in having a say in their assessment, treatment, and recovery.

Online chat with VLA

Depending on availability, a chat window will appear 9am–5pm, Monday to Friday.

Free legal advice

Lawyers who can talk to carers about how the law applies to their legal problem.

Get a lawyer to run a case

If carers can't afford a lawyer they can apply for a grant of legal assistance.

Phone: **1300 792 387** – Speak to VLA in your language.

Women's Legal Service

Women's Legal Service Victoria is a not-for-profit organisation that has been providing free legal services to women since 1982. They work with women experiencing disadvantage to address legal issues arising from relationship breakdown or violence.

Women's Legal Service prioritise support for people who are experiencing family violence and face other barriers to justice. This may include:

- having no or low income or access to money
- having limited access to other legal support
- not having a home
- being Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
- not speaking English or having English as a second language
- being on a temporary visa or not having a visa
- living with disability
- caring for children with disability

Child protection and care

They can help when Victoria's Child Protection Service is involved with your family.

Women's Legal Service can make sure:

- you understand the process and your rights
- Child Protection understand the family violence you have experienced
- arrangements for the care of your children are safe and practical

Level 10, 277 William Street Melbourne VIC 3000

Ph: **(03) 8622 0600** Toll Free: **1800 133 302**

admin@womenslegal.org.au | <https://www.womenslegal.org.au/>



Victorian Ombudsman

The Ombudsman takes complaints about Victorian government organisations, including the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH). The Ombudsman's office encourage you to complain to DFFH first. If you're not happy with its response and the issue continues to affect you, the Ombudsman may be able to help.

If the Ombudsman's office aren't able to assist you with your concerns or complaint, there are other organisations that may be able to help. These include:

Victorian Legal Services Commissioner

This Commissioner assists Victorians who have complaints about lawyers and other legal professionals.

Email: consumerenquiry@lsbc.vic.gov.au | Phone: **(03) 9679 8001**

Ombudsman's office

Call 1800 806 314 (between 9am-5pm Monday to Friday)

Office of the Public Advocate

The Victorian Office of the Public Advocate (OPA) provides services to protect and promote the rights, interests and dignity of people with disability (specifically intellectual impairment, mental disorder, brain and injury or dementia) living in Victoria.

These services include guardianship, advice, education, information, research, advocacy and support and are delivered by the OPA employees and 650 OPA volunteers.

OPA's Advice Service provides information and assistance to:

- people with disability
- their family, carers and friends
- professionals from the health, human services, legal, community services and government sectors.

OPA's team of highly trained staff can provide advice on a diverse range of matters that affect people with disability, including:

- guardianship and administration
- enduring powers of attorney
- medical treatment decision-making
- matters affecting people with disability
- referral to OPA's Community Visitors Program.

Advice service phone: **1300 309 337** Monday to Friday 9am-4:45pm

Community Legal Centres

Community Legal Centre	Telephone	Email
Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service	1800 105 303	information@fvpls.org
AED Legal Centre	(03) 9639 4333	noni.lord@aed.org.au
Asylum Seeker Resource Centre	(03) 9326 6066	admin@asrc.org.au
Ballarat & Grampians Community Legal Service	(03) 5331 5999	reception@bgcls.org.au
Barwon Community Legal Service Inc	(03) 5221 4744	bcls@barwoncls.org.au
Brimbank Community Legal Service - Melton	(03) 9971 1800	info@communitywest.org.au
Brimbank Community Legal Service - St Albans	(03) 8312 2000	info@communitywest.org.au
Broadmeadows Community Legal Service Inc	(03) 9302 3911	broadmeadows_VIC@clc.net.au
Casey Cardinia Community Legal Service Inc	(03) 9793 1993	caseyclc@vicnet.au
Central Highlands Community Legal Service Inc	(03) 5331 5999	chcl@netconnect.com.au
Darebin Community Legal Service Inc	(03) 9484 7753	Darebin_Vic@clc.net.au
Eastern Community Legal Service Inc	(03) 9762 6235	outeast@eclc.org.au
Family Mediation Center	(03) 9556 5333	family@mediation.com.au
First Step Legal Service	(03) 9537 3177	info@firststep.org.au
Fitzroy Legal Service Inc	(03) 9419 3744	enquiries@fitzroy-legal.org.au
Flemington & Kensington Community Legal Service	(03) 9376 4355	fklegal@fkclc.org.au
Footscray Community Legal Service Inc	(03) 9689 8444	admin@footscrayclc.org.au
Gippsland Community Legal Service Inc	(03) 5133 0411	Gipps_Vic@cc.net.au
Goulburn Valley Community Legal Centre	(03) 5831 0900	gvclc@gvclc.org.au
Human Rights Law Centre	(03) 8636 4450	admin@hrlc.org.au
Hume Riverina Community Legal Service Inc	(03) 6057 5000	cls@umfc.com.au
Inner Melbourne Community Legal Centre	(03) 9328 1885	
Justice Connect Homeless Law	(03) 8636 4400	
Justice Connect Seniors Law	(03) 8636 4400	
Law and Advocacy Centre for Women	(03) 9448 8930	info@lacw.org.au

Loddon Campaspe Community Legal Service Inc	(03) 5444 4363	admin@advocacyandrights.org.au
Monash Community Legal Service Inc	(03) 9905 4336	NA
Moonee Valley Community Legal Service Inc	(03) 9376 7929	admin@mvls.org.au
Moreland Community Legal Service Inc	(03) 9383 2588	info@morelandclc.org.au
Murray Mallee Community Legal Service Inc	(03) 5023 5966	NA
North Melbourne Community Legal Service Inc	(03) 9328 1885	info@nmls.org.au
Peninsula Community Legal Service Inc - Bentleigh	(03) 9783 3600	pclc@pclc.org.au
Peninsula Community Legal Service Inc - Cranbourne	(03) 9570 8455	pclc@pclc.org.au
Peninsula Community Legal Service Inc - Frankston	(03) 5995 3722	pclc@pclc.org.au
Peninsula Community Legal Service Inc - Rosebud	(03) 5981 2422	pclc@pclc.org.au
Refugee Legal	(03) 9413 0100	clinic@refugeelegal.org.au
Seniors Rights Victoria	1300 368 821	info@seniorsrights.org.au
Social Security Rights Victoria	(03) 9481 0299	
Southport Community Legal Service	(03) 9646 6066	principal@southportcls.com.au
South-East Monash Legal Service	(03) 9652 1501	administration@fclc.org.au
Tenants Victoria	(03) 9411 1444	
Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service Coop	1800 064 865	vals@vals.org.au
Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service	1800 014 111	
West Heidelberg Community Legal Service	(03) 9450 2002	whclegal@bchs.org.au
West Justice Community Legal Centre - Footscray	(03) 9749 7720	admin@westjustice.org.au
West Justice Community Legal Centre - Werribee	(03) 9749 7720	admin@westjustice.org.au
Whittlesea Community Legal Service	(03) 9652 1501	administration@fclc.org.au
Women's Legal Service	1800 133 302	legal@youthlaw.asn.au
Youthlaw	(03) 9113 9500	legal@youthlaw.asn.au



KCV's community resources for kinship carers booklets

1. Planning for more effective access visits
2. How to run a successful support group and be an effective carer advocate/representative
3. The Orange Door services
4. Support for informal kinship carers
5. Grief and loss
6. How to make a complaint – and get heard
7. Court orders – the role of Child Protection and the courts
8. Education
9. Financial support for kinship carers
10. Rights
11. For children & young people with an emotional or physical disability
12. Assistance for those coping with suicide
13. LGBTQIA+ families & communities
14. Mental health and family relationships
15. Camps & respite
16. Carers' wellbeing
17. Legal community
18. Local governments
19. Support for grandparents and non-parents caring for children



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0499 969 234
admin@kinshipcarersvictoria.org



Families,
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Kinship Carers Victoria
is supported by the Victorian Government.