Family & Community Services

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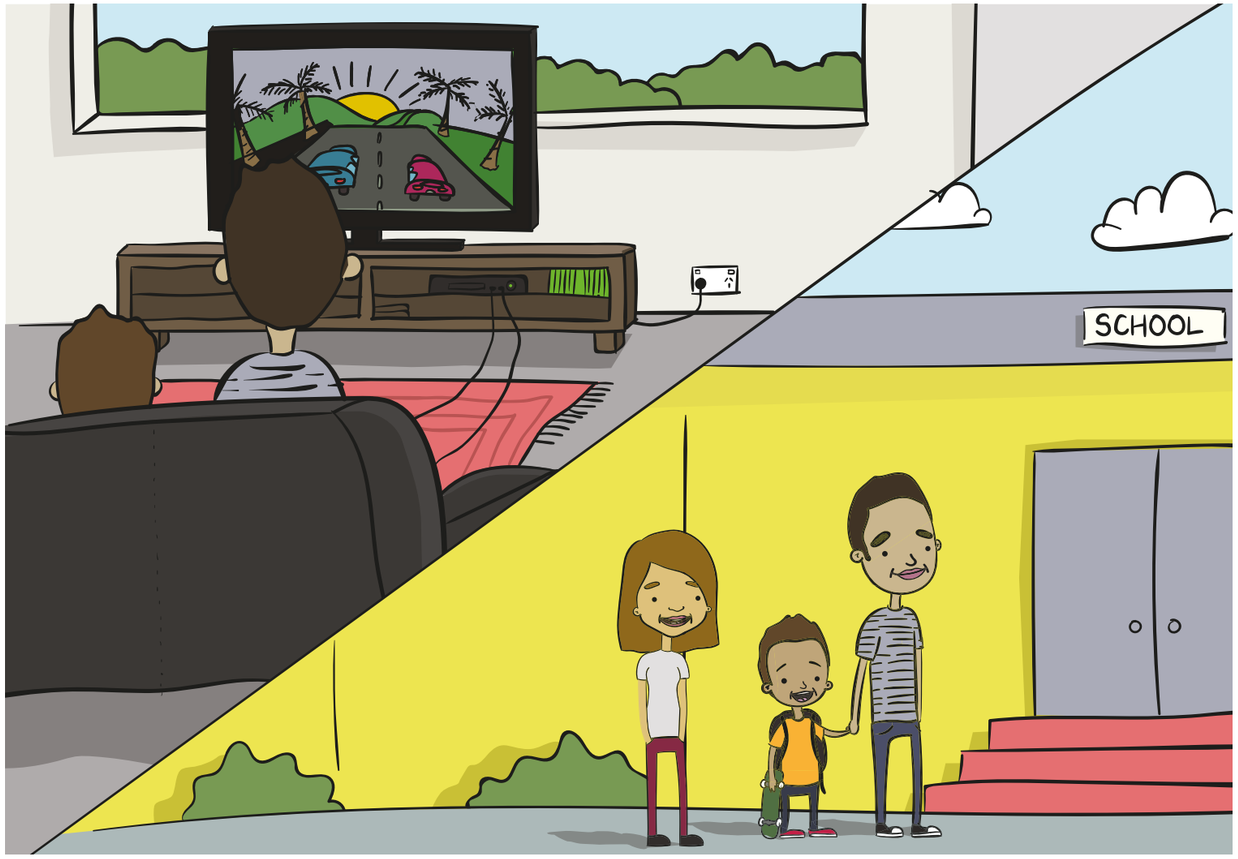
Family & Community Services

GUARDIANSHIP ORDERS

What does it mean for me?

A guide for children under 12



WHAT is a GUARDIAN?

A guardian is a person who will take care of you until you are at least 18 years old.

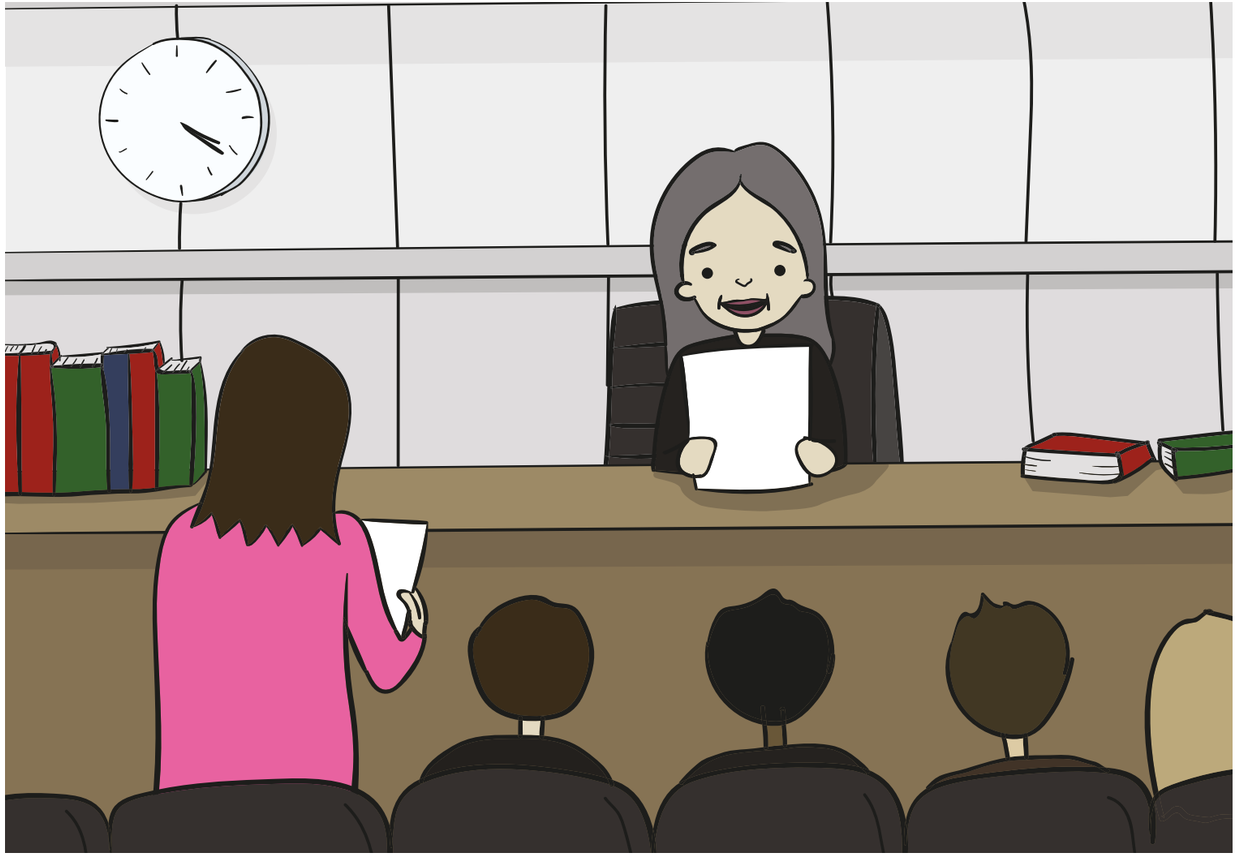
This might be your grandparent, aunt, uncle or foster carer. A guardian will make decisions about important things like which school you go to and will make sure you feel happy, safe and loved.

HOW DOES *someone* BECOME *a* GUARDIAN?

If someone wants to become your guardian they will talk to you, your family, your caseworker or other important people in your life about it.

Your caseworker will talk to the person who wants to become your guardian and the people who live in their home to make sure you will be safe, happy and well looked after.

Your caseworker will tell the judge at the Children's Court about these discussions who will decide if having a guardian is the best option for you.



do I have A SAY in what will HAPPEN to me?

Yes

Your caseworker and solicitor will ask you how you feel about having a guardian. It's important that you tell them how you feel or if you have any worries.

Your solicitor and caseworker will tell the judge at the Children's Court about who you would like to live with.

The judge wants to make sure that the person who might become your guardian will make sure you are safe and happy.

You will always have the right to say what you think is best for you.

WILL I STILL *see my* FAMILY?

Yes

As long as it is safe to do so, your guardian will make sure you still have contact with your family.

This might include your parents, brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles and other important people in your life.

Will I still LEARN about my FAMILY HISTORY and my CULTURE?

Yes

Your guardians will help you to learn more about your family background and culture.

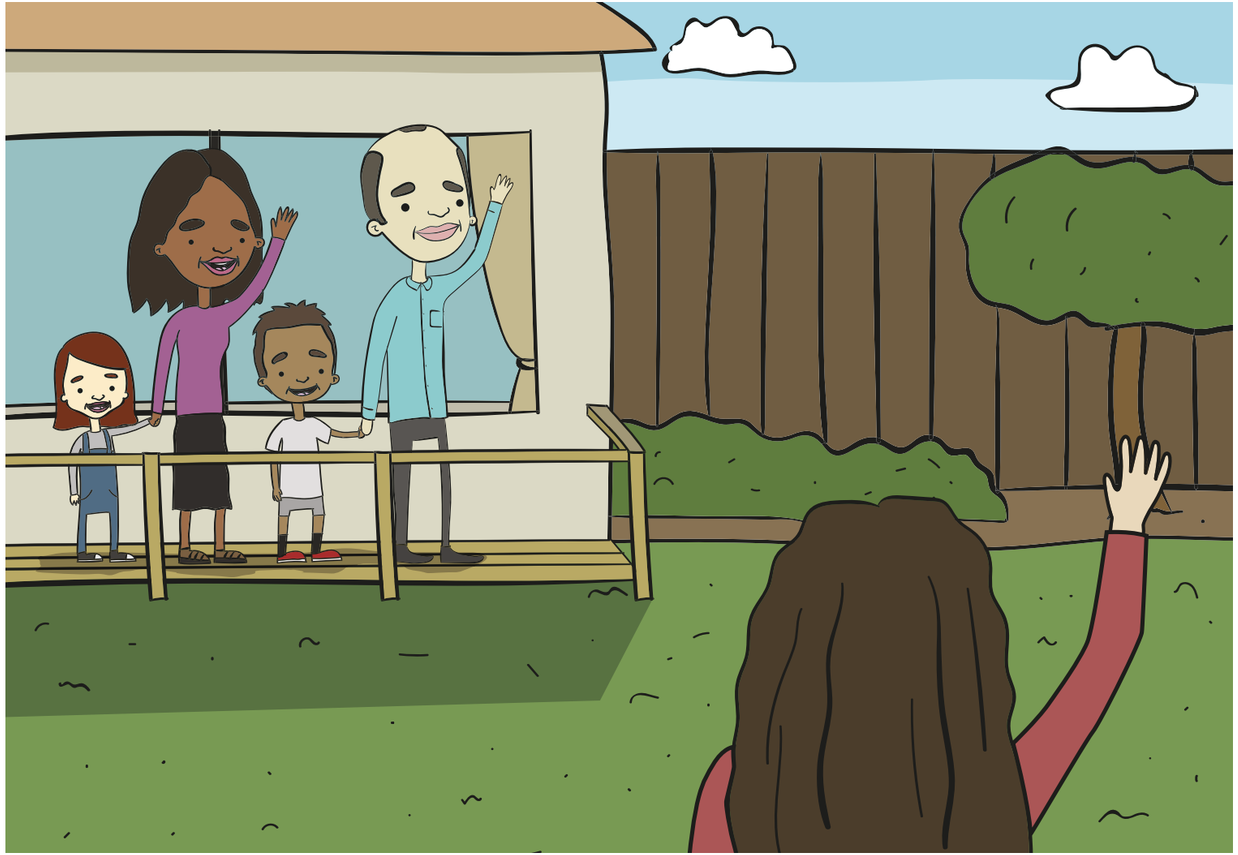
This could include things like special food, taking you to a church or a mosque or special religious events, organising for you to go to special cultural activities, such as festivals or cultural camps.

WILL I STILL *have a* CASEWORKER?

No

After someone becomes your guardian you will not have a caseworker. Guardians do not have to check with a caseworker when making decisions about looking after you.

Every year your guardian will tell Family and Community Services if you are still living with them.



WHAT IF *I still have* QUESTIONS?

It is important to talk to an adult if you have questions or worries about having a guardian.

Good people to talk to are:

- your carer
- your caseworker
- your teacher
- a counsellor
- someone you trust.

If you are worried or feeling upset and want to talk to someone else you can call the Kids Helpline, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. What you talk about is between you and the counsellor.

Their phone number is 1800 55 1800 or visit kidshelp.com.au

You can also call CREATE, which is an organisation that supports children and young people in care.

Their phone number is 1800 655 105 or visit create.org.au