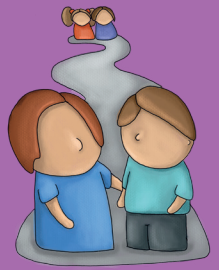


HOW TO GET MY KIDS BACK

PARENT PEER SUPPORT PROJECT



Work the System

Co-operate with workers and follow the rules

Try to work positively with the Department, other OOHC Agencies, carers, workers.



Be respectful but be assertive about what you need to do get your kids back and to keep them safe.

Ask for more contact with your kids



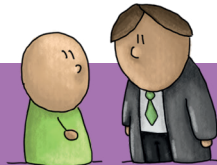
Try not to put energy into fighting the system and feeling powerless and defeated

Keep your own records of visits, calls, email and other communication with your kids

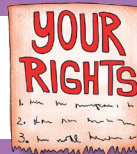


Keep a record of when visits or calls are cancelled and why

Get legal advice about the type of evidence you need to collect to demonstrate the changes you are making



Research your rights as a parent - talk to a lawyer experienced in child protection

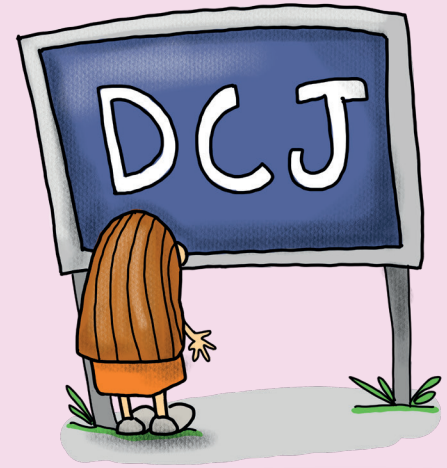


Take responsibility for things that you can control

Ask if you can meet the carers and try to build a good working relationship with them



Keep appointments for contact with your kids as a priority, even when it is hard



"As much as it is a truly nightmarish experience for any parent to have to go through, for what it is worth, I am glad I went through it. I am 100 % a better person for it"

"There are a few programs out there that can help. You have to find the ones that are right for you. I did as many as I could. They helped me look at things differently."

"I bought them back, always at agreed hours, and it was always open communication with the department to make sure you were doing the right things and not stepping over those boundaries"

The Family Inclusion Strategies in the Hunter website has lost of services and programs suggested by parents

<http://www.finclusionh.org>



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