

# WHY HAVE A LAWYER

## PARENT PEER SUPPORT PROJECT



### Why do I need a lawyer?

A lawyer's job is to listen to your problem, know the law and give you legal advice, discuss your options with you, take instructions about what you want to do, help you understand how the law applies to your case and to represent you in Court.

### Your lawyer can:

- Explain your rights if you have had contact with the Department of Communities and Justice (which was called FACS);
- Explain the responsibilities of the Department;
- Talk with the Department caseworkers and lawyers to get a clear idea of the safety concerns which led the Department to get involved;
- Explain what the Department expects from you to address the safety concerns of your children;
- Advise you about what might happen and what to expect in the Court.



The Family Inclusion Strategies in the Hunter website is developed for parents – find out more information and about events for parents with other parents  
<http://www.finclusionnh.org>



### Tips from other parents:

- Talk to your lawyer as soon as possible.
- It can help you to have a good working relationship with your lawyer.
- Lawyers are there to provide you with advice – but you don't have to agree with everything they say.
- You can seek an alternative lawyer.



"My solicitor was fantastic – she really listened to me and understood."



"He's a good lawyer but probably not the best when it comes to child protection issues... so if we had to go back again, we probably would find someone that specialised."



"Talking with other parents helped me figure out what I needed from my lawyer."



**Legal Aid**  
NEW SOUTH WALES

Legal Aid has a great website with lots of useful information:  
<https://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/publications/factsheets-and-resources/kids-in-care>

