

TEMPORARY CARE ARRANGEMENTS (TCA)

A Resource for Parents written by Family Inclusion Strategies Hunter Peer Parent Expert

If your child is assessed as in need of care and protection, caseworkers may speak with their manager about whether a **temporary care arrangement** (TCA) is an option.

A TCA is an agreement between you and DCJ. <https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/children-and-families/nsw-child-protection-guide-for-families/when-a-caseworker-visits/temporary-care-arrangements.html>

This means that your child does not live with you and is legally under the care of the **Secretary of DCJ** but you continue to have **parental responsibility**.

What this arrangement means is that someone else cares for your child, but you have **the right** to have a say in making decisions, including where your child will live and how and when you see your child.

Legally, you can decide to end the TCA at anytime but The TCA will include tasks that need to be done within the period of the TCA so your child can come back home. These tasks will be written down in a plan made together with the caseworker. Make sure you fully understand what is written. Get legal advice before agreeing to anything.

If you chose to end the TCA, the caseworker will speak with you about whether they think it is safe for your child to return to you. Get legal advice before deciding to end a TCA.

DCJ can also decide to end the TCA at any point.

The TCA can only be agreed to for up to three months. This can be extended for another three months if it is clear that with a little more time, you would be able to make enough positive changes. Get clarification from your caseworker about what they need to be seeing to extend the TCA.

How long the TCA will go for will be agreed on by you and the caseworker. The TCA will include a plan for the support you will need during it.

You should speak to a lawyer before making this agreement. <https://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au>

Your caseworker should make a referral to [legal support](#) for you.

By agreeing to a TCA you are temporarily giving up day to day care of your child. Only you can decide if you should do this. Get legal advice before deciding. If you do not agree the TCA can not be made however this may lead to removal without consent. [Get legal advice to protect your family.](#)

Childrens court TCA factsheet

https://childrenscourt.nsw.gov.au/documents/factsheets/jag2474_temporary%20care%20arrangements%20fact%20sheet_v3_sec.pdf

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