

Child Protection During Pregnancy

We hope pregnancy is a happy time for you, bub and family.

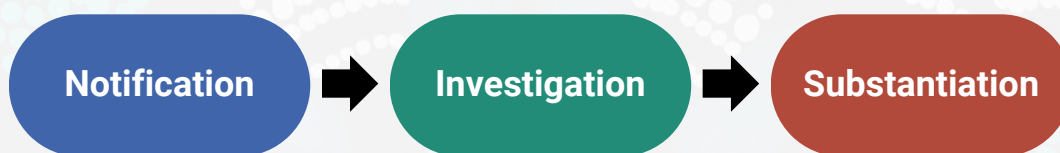


But there can be worries and hard times.

And sometimes child protection might step in.

In this sheet we give you tips for things child protection might do during pregnancy.

Based on where you live, 3 things child protection might do when you are pregnant are:



TIP!

See our tip sheet 'Child Protection Process' on what these things mean.

Child Protection and Pregnancy

Child protection mostly looks at what life will be like for bub after they are born.

But, in some states, child protection may look at what is happening for bub in their parent's belly.

When you are pregnant you might be asked to:

- ⦿ Attend meetings with child protection when you're pregnant
- ⦿ Go to a new program or service, like Family Group Conferencing, Family Support Services of Aboriginal Family-Led Decision Making (AFLDM).

TIP!

Programs like Family Support Services of AFLDM might help you keep your baby safe after birth. Some of these services are voluntary. But sometimes referrals to these services have to be made by child protection. Sometimes you have to agree to this referral (like in Queensland) to get the service.

This information was updated on 04/03/2025. Laws change, so [this information can change](#).

It is important to know the laws for [where you live](#).

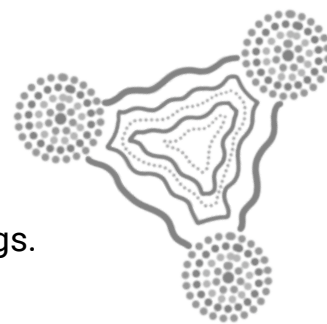
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'Pre-birth' meetings



Sometimes meetings with child protection are called 'pre-birth' meetings.

Pre-birth meetings can include:

- Mum
- Dad
- Community workers
- Support network (family, friends, mob)
- Hospital workers (e.g. Social workers, Aboriginal workers)
- Advocate or Lawyer
- Child protection worker

In some states, like Western Australia, child protection might tell you to bring a lawyer to 'pre-birth' meetings. In other states, like Victoria, these meetings may still happen with child protection, but you may not be asked to bring your lawyer to the meetings.

TIP!

Get your own legal advice if you are having meetings with child protection during pregnancy.

Your closest Aboriginal Legal Service might be able to help.

You can ask the child protection worker:

- What you will be asked to do by them during pregnancy.
- To provide you with written information about your rights, phone numbers for support and legal services, and information about the child protection Department's complaints process.

TIP!

Remember to write everything down (**including that you asked for this information**) so that you have the notes if you need them down the track. You can show this to a lawyer or the magistrate later on. Your notes can become 'evidence'.

TIP!

Did you know that each Australian state and territory has its own child protection laws?

**It is important you know the laws for where you live.
This is why getting a lawyer early is important.**

Court Orders During Pregnancy

Investigations by child protection can happen during pregnancy. Where you live might change what this looks like (see the tip before).

This means that child protection can look into things when you are pregnant.

In some states, child protection can also make a decision about a court order for bub when you are pregnant.

TIP! *Child protection and health workers might keep an eye on things during pregnancy.*

If you have worries

The best thing to do is to talk to a **trusted** person like a:

- Advocate or trusted family member
- Elder or trusted community member
- Lawyer
- Aboriginal Health Worker
- Worker at an Aboriginal Organisation
- Aboriginal midwife



Ask your trusted person or people what child protection might do when you are pregnant and what this means for you.



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