

ORDER'S, PASSPORTS & PHOTOS

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PASSPORTS & OTHER DOCUMENTS

WHAT DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED?

- Birth Certificate
- Citizenship Evidence (Dept Home Affairs)
- Form B10 (signed by those with parental responsibility)
- Court Order
- Proof of Identity/Change of Name
- Statutory Declaration

[Source](#)

ORDERS, PASSPORTS & PHOTOS





TRAVEL

Children can travel with you overseas

Take documentation to support the travel, particularly where there is an obvious mix of cultures in your family eg court order, DFFH permission or birth parent consent



PHOTOS

Sharing photos with birth families is complex

Birth families are looking to learn about your child's personality, the life they lead, and to see they are happy and have opportunities they otherwise would not have. This helps with their own loss and grief in losing or giving up their child.

Consider sharing milestone moments like learning to walk, riding a bike, family vacations, playing sport

Make it an event. A hard copy book each year on a birthday.

Consider identifying information and avoid

Personal information gathered online can be misused.

Involve your child in the decision to share photos online

Be clear in agreeing what can be shared online about your children

Where birth family share content online, it is a compliment to your parenting!



COURT ORDERS



CHALLENGES

- Birth family contact is typically a difficult issue to negotiate. The CYF Act states the Court must have regard to the primacy of the child's relationship with the child's permanency family. This creates flexibility to accommodate the child's needs, family life and capacity to carry out the contact requirements. However, variations to a Permanency Care Order involve no restrictions on the number of contacts a court can order (birth parent must demonstrate change in circumstance for the Court to hear the application)
- Locating and arranging visitations for extended birth family: attempted contact is important



COURT ORDERS

- Carers do not always have a voice in permanency decisions at court. They are "significant others" who apply to the magistrate to be a party to proceedings
- Challenge



COURT ORDERS



CONTACT ARRANGEMENTS

- Specify the age at which children choose their contact arrangements with birth family (venue, frequency, length of time and notice period), as their safety and protective needs change
- Consider contact as a mix of face to face and other (calls) & keep records
- Birth parents or others also included?
- “Up to” a number of contacts, generally 4 to 6 face to face



PERMANENT CARE ORDER

- You are the legal guardian and you decide and are responsible for what is in your child’s best interests.
- The court cannot order contact beyond the first 12 months. However, there is an expectation to maintain the child’s connection with the birth family. It helps the child with identity and making sense.



COMMUNICATION

Maintain all connections wherever possible and expect challenging behaviour after birth family contact

Consider agreeing with birth family what name birth parents and other family members may be called. What makes sense to your child? Some ideas:

- Mama L for Mama Liz
- My Dave for My Dad
- My Dami for my Mummy
- Miss Liz or Auntie Liz
- Mamacita, Meme or Mother
- Tata, Pappa or Father

Labels don't undermine your role and may help with alleviating birth parents grief and loss.

Its your relationship, not the title that matters.

When children "belong" to two or more families, exposure to interparental conflict (belittling, competing) is detrimental for children.



A hiker in a dark jacket and hat stands on a rocky mountain trail, holding a walking stick. The background features a vast, hazy mountain range under a clear blue sky. The hiker is positioned on the right side of the frame, looking out over the landscape.

COURT ORDERS

A SUMMARY AND COMPARISON

	Care by Secretary Order/ Extension of Care by Secretary Order ⁶⁶	Long-term Care Order	Permanent Care Order ⁶⁷	Local Adoption with DFFH funding ⁶⁸	Plenary Adoption (local and intercountry) ⁶⁹	Simple Adoption
Duration of order	Maximum of 2 years	Ends at 18	Ends at 18	Lifelong	Lifelong	Lifelong
Who applies for the order	DFFH	DFFH	DFFH	DJCS	Adoptive parent	Adoptive parent
Birth family consent required	No	No	No	Yes, unless court ordered	Yes	Yes
Inheritance rights flow	Birth family	Birth family	Birth family	Adoptive family	Adoptive family	Birth family and Adoptive family
Birth certificate acknowledgement	Birth parents only	Birth parents only	Birth parents only	Adoptive parents	Adoptive parents	Birth family and Adoptive parents
Child's surname	Birth parents	Birth parents	Birth parents	Adoptive parents	Adoptive parents	Birth parents and Adoptive parents
Can the order be revoked?	Yes –Can expire at term; be revoked at any time or another order can be made	Yes –Reviewed each year	Yes –Can be revoked through application by birth parent, child or DFFH i.e. if placement breakdown	No	No	No

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Supervision and assessment of placement by agency/ Child Protection post order	Yes Kinship, foster and residential care	Yes Kinship and foster care	No	No	No	No
Key parenting decisions	DFFH Child Protection/ Agency	DFFH Child Protection/ Agency	PCO parents	Adoptive parents	Adoptive parents	Simple adoption
Case management to meet child's needs	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Monetary assistance (see below)	Care entitlements + other	Care entitlements + other	Care entitlements + flexible fund	Limited See Table 3	No	No
Birth family contact is arranged and supervised if required	DFFH Child Protection	DFFH Child Protection	PCO parents	Adoptive parents	Adoptive parents	Adoptive parents

Table 3 / Comparison of Victorian support by permanency type (provided by PCA Families)

	Long-term care Orders – Foster carer	Long-term care Orders – Kinship carer	Permanent Care Orders	Local Adoption with DFFH funding ²⁷⁷	Plenary Adoption
Eligibility for Level 1 care allowance	Yes Level 1-5	Yes Automatic Level 1 (unless assessed differently)	Yes Automatic Level 1 (unless assessed differently)	Yes	No
Increased care allowance	Yes	Yes Special Negotiated Adjustment – with evidence of projected costs required	Yes Special Negotiated Adjustment – with evidence of projected costs required	Yes Special Negotiated Adjustment – with evidence of projected costs required	?
New placement allowance and costs for the first 6 months	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Education and medical payments	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
School Attendance Allowance	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Eligibility for 18-21 years secondary education support (School or VCAL)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Additional funding	Yes Client support funding –placement support brokerage (apply to CSO) –client expenses (apply to DFFH Child Protection)	Yes Client support funding –placement support brokerage (apply to CSO or Child Protection) –client expenses (apply to DFFH Child Protection)	Yes Flexible Funding –Pre-order to 12 mths post PCO (apply to DFFH Child Protection) –Post-12 mths (apply to OzChild and PCA Families Fund)	Yes – ad hoc grants and no more than \$5,000	No
Disability support payment	Yes PBS via NDIS	Yes PBS via NDIS	Yes DSIAPC via NDIS	Yes DSIAPC via NDIS	Yes NDIS
Commonwealth Government Assistance (based on eligibility and challenging to access)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes



[PCA Families Permanence and Stability Research Report](#)

[PCA Fact Sheets Legal Matters](#)

RESOURCES

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