



INFORMATION SHEET 4

Sharing information with Family and Child Connect

INFORMATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE PROFESSIONALS

Family and Child Connect is an easily accessible referral point for professionals working with children and families who need support.

Before sharing any information about a child or family with Family and Child Connect, the family's consent must be sought. You do not need written consent to share information.

However, it is advisable to document any conversation concerning consent for your own records.

Information that is shared with Family and Child Connect, or another support service when making a referral, should assist in determining the needs of the family and any risks to the child, so that the family can be offered a service.

Types of information that may be shared with Family and Child Connect may include, but are not limited to:

- the progress of a child or family towards achieving the goals of the service you provide
- the views and wishes of the family members, including the child
- any known history of the child suffering harm
- any periods that the child has been cared for by other people

- any significant issues relating to the child's siblings
- the child's physical health, including any medical treatment and needs
- any psychological and emotional difficulties the child may have
- the child's education, including any special educational needs
- any disabilities the child may have, including any special care they may need
- any known allergies and dietary requirements of the child
- any significant health problems of the child's parents
- whether a parent has a mental illness, substance abuse problem, disability or a history of domestic and family violence
- whether a parent is receiving treatment or accessing support for any of the above issues and outcomes, if so
- information about a person who may pose a risk to the child.

Information sharing by Family and Child Connect

Family and Child Connect must have the consent of a family to share information about them with other agencies and organisations, with some exceptions.

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Family and Child Connect may share information without consent with the Queensland Police Service and/or Child Safety, provided it is relevant to the functions of the Queensland Police Service and Child Safety. For example, Family and Child Connect can share information with police about a child who may be a victim of crime. Family and Child Connect can also share information with, or report to, Child Safety about a child who may be in need of protection.

Disclosing your identity

When referring to Family and Child Connect, the referrer's identity is not legally protected. However, the service will keep it confidential unless disclosure is legally required, for example, by the direction of a court or tribunal.

Further information

For more information about Family and Child Connect, email the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services at faccandifssupport@communities.qld.gov.au or go to the Family and Child Connect website www.familychildconnect.org.au