

# Maintaining confidentiality

## The principle of confidentiality

Everyone who works with children, young people and their families needs to respect their privacy and maintain confidentiality. As a foster carer or kinship carer, you need to be aware of your responsibilities under the Child Protection Act 1999 for handling information you may receive in your role as a carer.

The basic principle of confidentiality is that personal or confidential information about a child, young person or their family should only be provided to another person if it is for the purpose of the child or young person's protection or welfare.

## Tips for maintaining confidentiality

- Carers may share certain information about a child or young person with another person, for example a school teacher, child care staff member, Foster Care Queensland, Foster Care Advocacy Support Team delegate or a member of your immediate family, to help that person understand and meet the child or young person's needs.
- Details of the child or young person and their family may be discussed with relevant Department of Child Safety staff.

- When you are required to provide information about the child or young person to other people, it is best to discuss the matter with your Child Safety Officer in the first instance, to work out what information can be shared with whom. A decision will then be made as to whether sharing this information is in the child or young person's best interests.
- Carers must not provide any information about a child or young person in their care to the media, or allow media access to the child or young person.

Before sharing information you should ask yourself, "does this person need to know the information I am about to share?" If you are unsure about what, if any, information about a child or young person should be shared, talk to your Child Safety Officer first, before sharing the information.

For more information visit [www.childsafety.qld.gov.au](http://www.childsafety.qld.gov.au)

Or contact the Department of Child Safety on **1800 811 810** or **3224 8045**.

