



# Who can say OK in Tasmania?

**We want to make life better for everyone in Out of Home Care.**

That's why we've created a quick guide to help you know who can make decisions on your behalf. Your voice is important and should be considered in all areas of decision making.

Department for Education,  
Children and Young People





## Having material basics

### Personal Documents

The Child Safety Service can help you to organise your birth certificate, Medicare card, and other information.

Carers can sign forms for:

- Health Care cards
- Medicare benefits
- Opening bank accounts (if the bank needs guardian permission)
- Personal identification card
- Youth Allowance (or other help from Centrelink)

When you're 14, you can create a MyGov account.

When you're 16, you can get a Tax File Number and open some online bank accounts without a carer's permission.

### Money

You can decide how to spend your money. This might include buying something for yourself, a day out with family or gifts for friends. If you need help with this, including knowing how to budget your money, your carer can help you.

### Mobile Devices and Social Media

Carers decide when you can get a mobile device and what social media accounts are safe for you. Carers must talk to you about the rules, benefits and risks of using mobile devices and social media, including what personal information you share about yourself.

If your device is removed, your carer must tell you why and for how long. Your device should not be taken away forever.



## Being loved, safe and valued

### Contact with family and others

Staying connected with family and other special people is important. This can include messaging, phone calls and face to face contact. Carers can help to support these connections, but the Child Safety Service need to approve them first to make sure you are safe.

### Use of Babysitters

You should feel comfortable with your babysitter when they are looking after you. Your carer must make sure the babysitter knows your regular routine and medical needs. If your carer needs more than 10 hours of babysitting per week, the Child Safety Service need to approve it.





## Being Healthy



## Learning

### Medical Needs

Carers can take you to the doctor for:

- General doctor appointments
- Immunisations
- Specialist appointments
- Blood tests
- X-rays
- Medication prescriptions
- Dental appointments

Carers must tell the Child Safety Service about any medical appointments and medications.

You can see a doctor on your own. But a doctor still needs permission from a parent or guardian to treat you if you are under 18. Sometimes, you can give permission if you are under 18 but only if the doctor thinks you fully understand the treatment, risks and consequences.

### Smoking and Vaping

It is illegal to smoke or vape under the age of 18. Your carer cannot give you permission to smoke or vape if you are under 18.

### Sex and Contraception

It's against the law to have sex with anyone under the age of 17.

There is no age limit to buying contraception, like condoms and spermicides, at the supermarket or pharmacy.

You can get medical advice for contraception, like the pill, at any age. Contraception may be prescribed if your doctor thinks it's appropriate to give it to you without asking for a parent or guardian's consent.

### School Activities

Carers can sign school forms on your behalf for:

- Camps, excursions and activities (in Tasmania)
- School activities and sports outside school hours
- School photos
- Graduation dinners and socials
- Allergy forms
- School science laboratory forms

### Learning to Drive

At 15 years and 11 months, you can apply for your Learner Driver Licence by taking the knowledge test.

Your carer can help you learn to drive by taking you for lessons and signing forms for professional driving lessons.





## Participating

### Sleepovers

Sleepovers with friends are an important part of your social life but you need to be safe as well. The first time you stay at a friend's house, your carer will need to get approval from the Child Safety Service. After that, your carer can approve sleepovers (for 1 or 2 nights) if they trust the adults you're staying with. In some cases, the Child Safety Service will always have to approve sleepovers.

### Travel and Holidays

Carers can decide on travel within Tasmania but they need to tell the Child Safety Service to avoid missing out on any time planned with your family.

### Passports

The Child Safety Service will lodge passport applications and approve all international travel. Carers will look after your passport while travelling but will return it to the Child Safety Service when you are back home.



## Culture and identity

### Connection to Culture

Your background is a key part of who you are. Carers should help you to learn about your family and history, stay connected to your culture and participate in cultural or spiritual activities. This is particularly important if you and your family are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

### Haircuts and Piercings

Carers can approve haircuts, hairstyles and body piercings, but also need to follow the laws in Tasmania around tattoos, body piercing and body modifications for people under the age of 18.

You can find out more about this at [www.police.tas.gov.au/services-online/pamphlets-publications/tattooing-body-modification-body-piercing-of-youths](http://www.police.tas.gov.au/services-online/pamphlets-publications/tattooing-body-modification-body-piercing-of-youths).

Your age, opinion, school rules and safety will be considered by your carer when discussing this with you.

**Information is correct as of September 2024. To view the latest version of this document visit: [decyp.tas.gov.au/who-can-say-ok](http://decyp.tas.gov.au/who-can-say-ok)**

