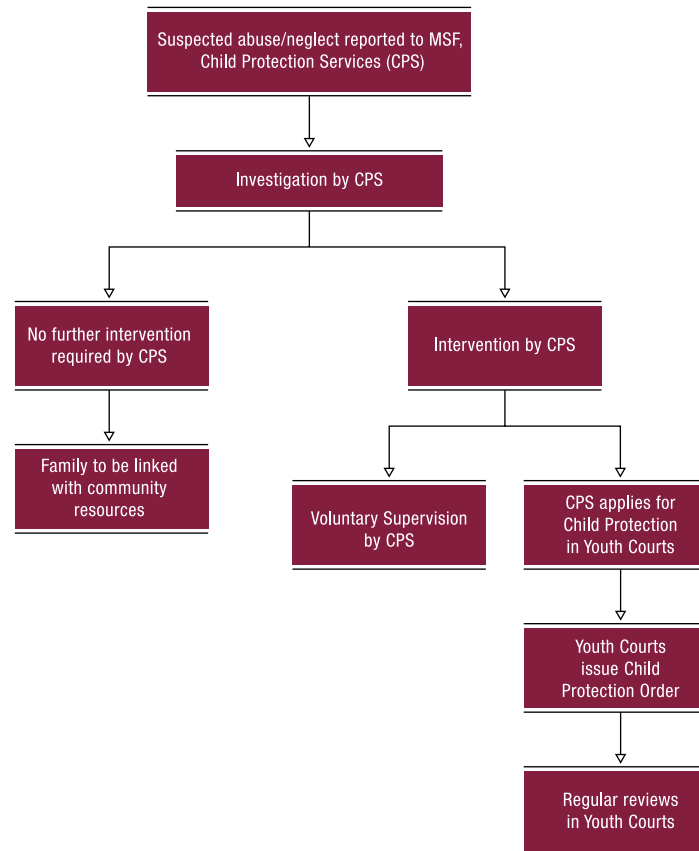




CHILD PROTECTION

What you need to know about
child protection applications

CHILD PROTECTION WORK FLOW



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Youth Courts

3 Havelock Square, Singapore 059725
www.FamilyJusticeCourts.gov.sg

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guardians, the child, and/or any significant others, the child protection officer will submit an SR to the Youth Courts. The Youth Court Judge will make the order after a discussion with two Panel Advisers (who are individuals in the community with vast work experience with children and youths, and who are appointed by the President of Singapore). The Youth Court Judge may:

- (a) order the parents or guardian of the child or young person to enter into a bond to exercise proper care and guardianship of the child or young person for such period as may be specified by the Court;
- (b) order the child or young person to be committed to the care of a fit person for such period as may be specified by the Court;
- (c) order the child or young person to be committed to a Place of Safety or a place of temporary care and protection for such period as may be specified by the Court; or
- (d) without making any other order or in addition to an order under (a), (b) or (c) above, make an order placing the child or young person under the supervision of a protector, an approved welfare officer or any other person appointed for that purpose by the Court, for such period as may be specified by the Court.

WHAT IF PARENTS/GUARDIANS WISH TO CONTEST THE CHILD PROTECTION APPLICATION?

If parents/guardians wish to contest the child protection application, they can inform the Youth Court Judge and he/she will give directions for parties to file their supporting documents and fix the matter for hearing. At the hearing, the Youth Court Judge will proceed to hear from the Director/Protector and the parents and/or their legal representatives before proceeding to make the necessary orders.

WHAT IS A CHILD PROTECTION APPLICATION?

Under the Children and Young Persons Act (CYPA), the Director of Social Welfare (the Director) or any officer who is appointed by the Director of Social Welfare as a child protection officer (Protector), if they are of the view that a child or young person under the age of 16 years is in need of care and protection, may remove the child or young person to a place of temporary care and protection or present him/her before a registered medical practitioner or approved welfare officer for an assessment or any medical or other treatment that is necessary before making an application to the Youth Courts for a care and protection order to be issued in favour of the child or young person.

WHEN IS A CHILD OR YOUNG PERSON IN NEED OF CARE AND PROTECTION?

Under Section 4 of the CYPA, a child or young person is in need of care or protection if:

- (a) the child or young person has no parent or guardian;
- (b) the child or young person has been abandoned by a parent or guardian, and despite reasonable inquiries the parents or guardian cannot be found, and no other suitable person is willing and able to exercise care or guardianship in respect of the child or young person;
- (c) the parent or guardian of the child or young person:
 - is unable or has neglected to provide adequate food, clothing, medical aid, lodging, care or other necessities of life for the child or young person; or
 - is unfit or unable or has neglected to exercise proper supervision and control over the child or young person, and the child or young person is falling into bad association, or is exposed to moral danger, or is beyond control;

- (d) the child or young person has been, is being or is at risk of being ill-treated:
 - by a parent or guardian; or
 - by any other person, and the parent or guardian, although knowing of such ill-treatment or risk, has not protected or is unlikely or unwilling to protect the child or young person from such ill-treatment;
- (e) the child or young person needs to be examined, investigated or treated for the purpose of restoring or preserving his/her health or development and his/her parent or guardian neglects or refuses to have him/her so examined, investigated or treated;
- (f) the child or young person behaves in a manner that is, or is likely to be, harmful to himself/herself or to any person and:
 - his/her parent or guardian is unable or unwilling to take necessary measures to remedy the situation; or
 - the remedial measures taken by the parent or guardian fail;
- (g) there is such a serious and persistent conflict between the child or young person and his/her parent or guardian, or between his/her parents or guardians, that family relationships are seriously disrupted, thereby causing the child or young person emotional injury;
- (h) the child or young person:
 - is a person in respect of whom a relevant offence has been or is believed to have been committed; or
 - is a member of the same household as another child or young person in respect of whom a relevant offence has been or is believed to have been committed, and the child or young person appears to be in danger of a similar offence being committed against him/her;

and either the person who committed or is believed to have committed the offence or who has been convicted of the offence is the parent or guardian

of the child or young person or a member of the same household as the child or young person, or the parent or guardian of the child or young person is unable, unlikely or unwilling to protect the child or young person from such offence; or

- (i) the child or young person is found to be:
 - destitute or wandering without any settled place of abode and without visible means of subsistence;
 - begging or receiving alms (whether or not there is any pretense of singing, playing, performing or offering anything for sale) or loitering for the purpose of begging or receiving alms;
 - engaged in carrying out illegal lotteries, illegal hawking, gambling or other undesirable activities; or
 - using or inhaling any intoxicating substance (as defined in the Intoxicating Substances Act (Cap. 146A)) for the purpose of inducing or causing in himself a state of intoxication.

WHAT ARE THE STEPS INVOLVED IN MAKING A CHILD PROTECTION APPLICATION?

The Director or the Protector will file a Complaint/Summons on behalf of the child or young person in the Youth Courts.

The Youth Court Judge, if he/she is of the view that there are sufficient grounds which are contained in the Complaint/Summons to warrant an investigation of the matter, will proceed to call for a Social Report (SR) on the child or young person.

In the meanwhile, the Youth Court Judge may make interim orders which may include placing the child or young person in a Place of Safety or a place of temporary care and protection pending the SR.

WHAT ORDERS CAN THE YOUTH COURTS MAKE?

After interviews are conducted with the parents/