



KINSHIP CARERS QUICK GUIDE TO DECISION MAKING

As a Kinship Carer, it can be tricky to know what decisions you can make for young people in your care, and what decisions need approval from a care team.

While some decisions can be made at the carer's discretion, other decisions will need authorization in line with the child or young person's care plan.

DAY TO DAY DECISIONS NOT REQUIRING APPROVAL

- Allocating pocket money
 - The clothes they wear
 - Coordinating babysitting or occasional child minding
- Daily routines such as school drop offs and bedtime

While parents are involved in short-term decisions as far as possible, child protection can executively approve short-term decisions in the best interest of the child.*

'SHORT-TERM' DECISIONS REQUIRING AUTHORIZATION

- School activities such as excursions or work experience within Victoria
- Participation in sports or cultural and social clubs within Victoria
- Routine medical and dental care (including immunizations)
- Haircuts to maintain current style (a trim).

Long-term decisions are also made in collaboration with the parents as far as possible. However, these types of decisions cannot be made without the parents explicit approval.*

'LONG-TERM' DECISIONS REQUIRING AUTHORIZATION

- A haircut that changes the style of the child or young person's current hair
- Approving a young person's year 11 and 12 subject choices
- A change in education providers such as moving schools

When making decisions, it's important to normalize experiences and keep activities age appropriate. If you do have questions, talk to your child or young person's care team or refer to the Kinship Carers Manual.