

## What other Orders can the Court make in relation to my child?

Under Section 25 of the Act, the Court is empowered to any of the following Orders in relation to a child, on the Application of the Authority:

- ◆ a Family Assistance Order;
- ◆ a Secure Accommodation Order;
- ◆ a Care Order;
- ◆ a Child Assessment Order;
- ◆ an Emergency Protection Order;
- ◆ a Recovery Order;
- ◆ a Fit Person Order;
- ◆ a Recognisance Order;
- ◆ a Foster Care Order;
- ◆ an Order freeing a child for adoption;
- ◆ a Supervision Order;
- ◆ a Contribution Order under section 44 of the Act;
- ◆ any other Order including an interim order

## Will I be allowed to have access to my child once he/she has been received into the care of the Authority?

The Court determines whether a parent/guardian should be permitted access to a child who is in the care of the Authority and if so, on what conditions.

Should you wish to have access to your child you must appear before the Court at the hearing of the matter and indicate this to the Judge who will consider your request.

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## My child has been received into the care of the Authority, what are my rights?

A parent or guardian whose child has been received into care by the Authority has the following rights:-

- ◆ The right to be served with a copy of all documents filed with the Court by the Authority in relation to the child and any *ex parte* Order granted by the Court in relation to the child ;
- ◆ The right to represent yourself in Court or to be represented by an Attorney-at-Law should you wish to challenge the Authority's receipt of your child into its care;
- ◆ The right to apply for Legal Aid with the Legal Aid and Advisory Authority. (The appointment of a Legal Aid Attorney will depend on whether you satisfy the qualification requirements of the Legal Aid and Advisory Authority.)

## How can I contact the Children's Authority for more information?

Should you have any questions following the receipt of your child into the care of the Authority, you may contact the Authority by any of the following means:-

**Children Services Associate / Team Lead:**

**Name:**

**Contact No:**

**Deputy Director  
Care, Legal & Regulatory Services  
Children's Authority of Trinidad and Tobago  
35A Wrightson Road  
Port of Spain**

**Phone: 627-0748 / 623-7555 / 625-7151**

**Fax: 624-6316**

**Hotline: 996 or 800-2014**

**Email: [info@ttchildren.org](mailto:info@ttchildren.org)**



## INFORMATION

### FOR PARENT & GUARDIAN

**WHEN A CHILD IS RECEIVED INTO  
THE CARE OF THE  
CHILDREN'S AUTHORITY  
PURSUANT TO SECTION 22 of the  
CHILDREN'S AUTHORITY ACT,  
CHAP. 46:10**

## Who we are

The Children's Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (also referred to as "the Authority") is established under the Children's Authority Act Chap. 46:10 as a specialised agency with the responsibility for the care and protection of children, especially those who are at risk or have been victims of abuse or neglect.

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### **From where does the Authority get its power to remove a child from his/her home?**

The powers and functions of the Authority are legislated under **Sections 5** of the Children’s Authority Act Chap 46:10 (“**the Act**”). Under **Section 5 (1)(d)** of the Act, the Authority is mandated to investigate complaints or reports of mistreatment of children.

**Section 5(1) (e)** of the Act further provides that the Authority has the power upon investigation, to remove a child from his home where it is shown that the child is in imminent danger. “**Imminent danger**” is defined in the Act as the likelihood that the child would suffer physical, emotional, mental or psychological harm.

### **When would the Authority receive a child into its care?**

Pursuant to **Section 22(1)** of the Act, where the Authority is of the view that a child is in need of care and protection and that its intervention is necessary in the best interest of the child, it shall investigate the matter and it shall be lawful where appropriate, for the Authority to receive the child into its care.

### **What happens when the Authority receives my child into its care?**

Where the Authority receives a child into its care under section 22 of the Act, it will then apply for a Wardship Order under the Family Law (Guardianship of Minors, Domicile and Maintenance) Act to be made in respect of the child and any other Order and/or an Order including an interim Order under section 25 that the Authority determines necessary.

### **Will I receive notice of the Application made to the Court by the Authority in relation to my child?**

Yes. Where the Authority makes an application for a Wardship Order following its receipt into care of any child, the Authority will join the parent or guardian of the child to the application and the documents filed with the Court as well as a Notice of Hearing will be served on the parent/guardian **by a Family Court Marshall** as soon as possible after the application is filed.

Once you are served with the proceedings, you must attend the hearing as you have a right to be heard before the Court.

### **Can the Authority obtain an Interim Care Order in relation to my child before I am served with the notice of proceedings?**

Yes. The Authority may initially make an *ex parte* Application to the Court (an Application without notice to you) for an Interim Care Order or any other interim order as the Authority deems necessary, and if the Court is satisfied that an Interim Order should be granted pending the service of the proceedings on the parent or guardian, it may do so.

### **What is the effect of a Care Order being granted to the Authority?**

Where the Court grants a Care Order under section 25(c) the child will be placed under the care of the Authority or a community residence. An Interim Care Order is a Care Order which is granted pending the determination of the matter.