



ALS

Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) Limited

Parenting capacity assessments

- Information about child protection and FaCS -

WHAT IS A PARENTING CAPACITY ASSESSMENT?

When FaCS is involved with your family you may be asked to participate in a Parenting Capacity Assessment.

The Assessment is usually done by the Children's Court Clinic and it is an assessment on how you parent.

The Clinic is independent of the court and FaCS. It does not work for the court of FaCS.

The person from the Clinic will interview you, people significant to your family, and if appropriate, the children.

They may also observe you during a contact visit with the children.

The person from the Clinic will prepare a report to the Court. This report will form part of the evidence that the Court will consider. The person from the Clinic is considered an expert witness.

AN ASSESSMENT CAN ONLY BE DONE IF YOU AGREE

You do not have to agree to an assessment.

Ask for legal advice. Your solicitor can help you by asking for more information about why FACS wants an assessment.

Your solicitor can assist by talking with FACS about the following:

- Is the parenting capacity assessment necessary?
- How will the assessment be conducted?
- Who will do the assessment?
- What is being assessed exactly?
- How can the assessment be made culturally appropriate?
- What information will the assessor have access to?

You are allowed to get as much information as you can about the assessment.

Do not feel pressure to say yes straight away. Tell the FACS caseworker that you wish to speak to your solicitor first.

GET LEGAL ADVICE

Before you agree to an assessment, call Aboriginal Legal Service (ALS) Care and Protection Law Practice.

ALS Care and Protection Law Practice
PHONE 1800 733 233 or 02 8836 3444