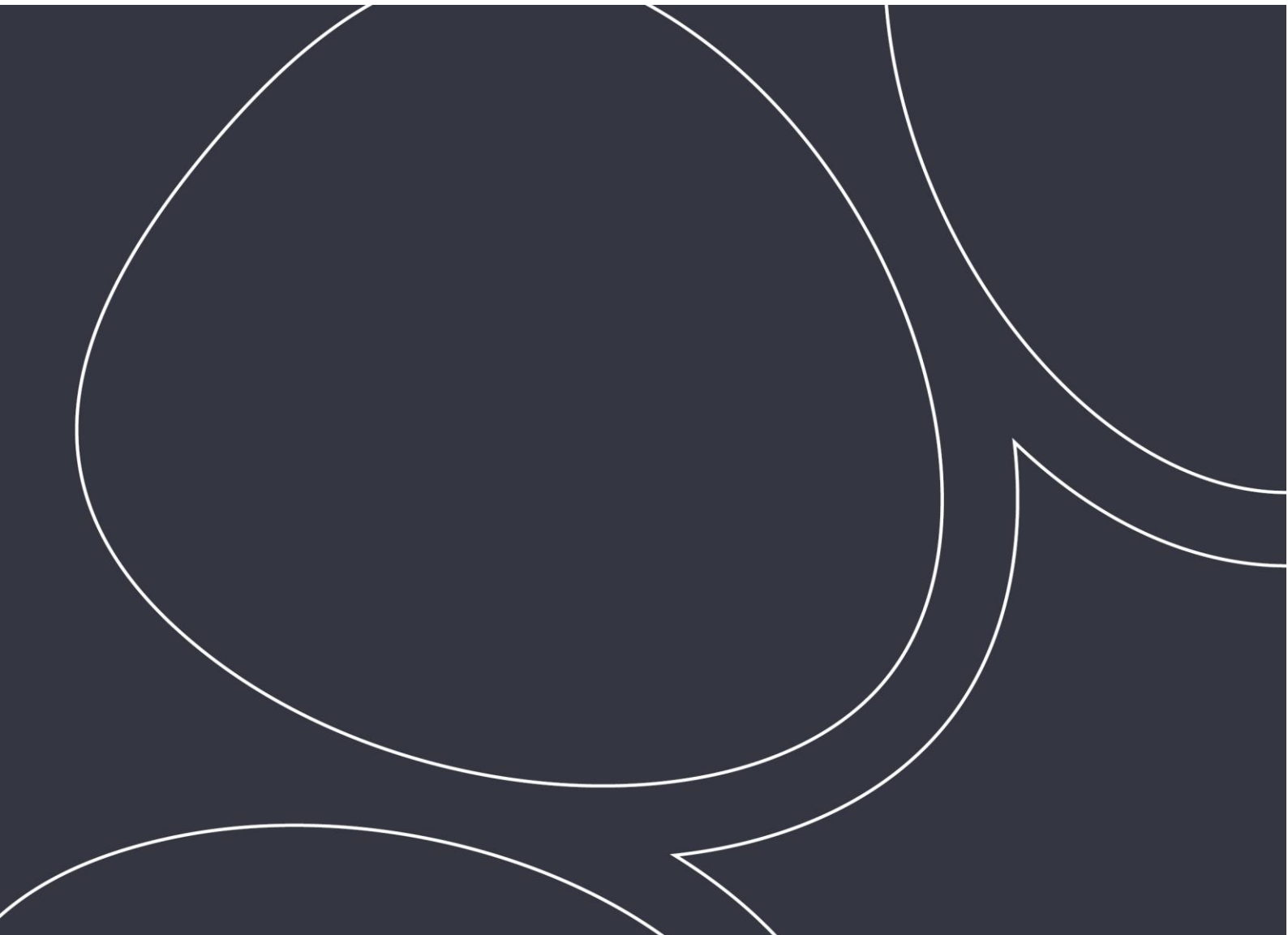


# Responding to Safety and Wellbeing Concerns for Children in Care

Policy



<b>Document title</b>	Responding to Safety and Wellbeing Concerns for Children in Care
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Version	Date	Author	Changes made
1.0	01/07/2018	Operational Policy	To provide guidance when responding to concerns for the safety and well-being of children in the care of the Chief Executive Officer.
1.1	25/09/2019	Operational Policy	Revision and Renamed - Updated criteria for s83B inquiries.
1.12	16/01/2026	Operational Policy	Rebranded from <i>Territory Families</i> to <i>Department of Children and Families</i> . Updated all relevant links to reflect the new department name. Removed the Standards of Practice link from the <i>Related Sources</i> section.

Acronyms	Full form
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
The Act	<i>Care and Protection of Children Act 2007</i>
The Regulations	Care and Protection of Children (Placement Arrangement) Regulations 2010

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## 1. Policy Purpose

To provide guidance when responding to concerns for the safety and well-being of a child in the care of the CEO.

## 2. Policy Statement

Concerns relating to the safety and wellbeing of a child in care includes all forms of physical, sexual, emotional harm and neglect. All concerns for the safety and well-being of a child in the care of the CEO, regardless of their placement type, must be thoroughly assessed in order to:

- Address immediate safety concerns for the child in care to mitigate risk of harm.
- Establish whether harm has occurred and what appropriate actions that need to be undertaken.
- Determine if the placement arrangement remains suitable for the child or if an alternative arrangement needs to be sourced.
- Determine what type of response is most suitable and what actions may be required to resolve the child protection concerns.

## 3. Section 84A Child Protection Investigations

A Child Protection Investigation must be undertaken under s84A of the Act for all reports of harm related to a child in care where:

- There is an allegation of physical, emotional, psychological or sexual harm or serious neglect, which has had a significant detrimental effect or is likely to have a significant detrimental effect on a child in care, and that harm has been perpetrated by a person connected to the Place of Care.

**or**

- There is a recurrence or emerging pattern of concerns including cumulative harm about the care provided by the place of care that may have a significant detrimental impact on the child's emotional, physical and psychological development if not addressed.

## 4. Section 83B Inquiries

A s83B Inquiry must be undertaken for all reports of concerns for the wellbeing related to a child in care where:

- The care provided to the child is not consistent with the standards of care as defined in s13 of the Regulations; and
- This is affecting or is likely to affect the child's physical, psychological and emotional wellbeing (s14).

**or**

- There are significant concerns for the child's physical, psychological and emotional wellbeing (s14); and
- The care provided to the child is not consistent with the standards of care as defined in s13 of the Regulations.

## 5. Legislative Basis and Related Documents

[Care and Protection of Children Act 2007](#)

[Care and Protection of Children \(Placement Arrangement\) Regulations 2010](#)