



**WOOR-DUNGIN**  
A New Partnership between Aboriginal Organisations and Philanthropy

## Becoming a kinship carer when you have a criminal record

### What is a kinship carer?

A kinship carer is a relative or family friend who looks after a child who can't live with their parents.

### What is a criminal record?

Victoria Police keeps a record of any crimes you have been found guilty of, and any ongoing investigations against you by the police. They can also check records kept by other states and territories.

### Will my criminal record be checked if I want to be a kinship carer?

Yes. When you apply to become a kinship carer, you must give Child Protection permission to conduct a national police check on you and anybody else over the age of 18 who usually lives in the house.

Information from the police check is only shown to people who are involved in deciding if you can become a kinship carer.

### Can I become a kinship carer if I have a criminal record?

Often the answer is yes, but it depends on what crimes you have committed. You might not be allowed to be a kinship carer if you have been found guilty of a **serious crime**. For example:

- serious violence
- serious sexual offences
- serious drug offences (such as drug trafficking)

You might also not be able to be a kinship carer if **another adult who lives in your house** has been found guilty of a serious crime.



When child protection is considering whether your criminal record should affect your application they look at:

- **what** the crime was
- **why** you (or somebody else in your house) committed the crime
- **how long** it has been since the crime was committed
- if this behavior could put a **child at risk**

If you think you have been **treated unfairly** in an application to become a kinship carer, or would like more information, contact one of the organisations below.

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**For more information, contact:**

**Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency**

[www.vacca.org](http://www.vacca.org)  
(03) 9287 8800

**Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service**

[www.vals.org.au](http://www.vals.org.au)  
1800 064 865 (toll free)

**Victoria Legal Aid**

[www.legalaid.vic.gov.au](http://www.legalaid.vic.gov.au)  
1300 792 387

**Eastern Community Legal Centre**

[www.eclc.org.au](http://www.eclc.org.au)  
5962 1665

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This fact sheet is for people in Victoria, Australia. It is for information only and is not legal advice. Accuracy or completeness cannot be guaranteed. If you need advice, please contact a lawyer. June 2017.