

## NOTICE

Children, Youth and Families Act 2005, Section 524

### READ THIS PAGE IF YOU ARE GOING TO THE CHILDREN'S COURT

#### LEGAL ADVICE AND REPRESENTATION

**In a large number of criminal cases in the Children's Court, you must have a lawyer. It is important for you to get legal advice as soon as possible. Take your Charge - Sheet and Summons to:**

- Victoria Legal Aid 1300 792 387
- Federation of Community Legal Centres to find the centre closest to you (03) 9652 1500
- Victoria Aboriginal Legal Service on 1800 064 865

A Lawyer will advise you, explain what happens in Court and speak for you in the Courtroom. Almost all children can get Legal Aid.

#### PLEADING NOT GUILTY

You or your lawyer must let the Children's Court registrar know that you will be pleading not guilty and how many witnesses you will be bringing to court. You should telephone or go to the court in person at least **three days** before the day of the court case. Your case will not be heard on the day written in your summons. You will be told of a new date and at what Court your case will be heard.

#### INDICTABLE OFFENCE

If you have been charged with an indictable offence you **must** go to court. The front of the summons will tell you if you have been charged with a "Summary Offence" or an "Indictable Offence".

#### GOING TO COURT

You should arrive at the Children's Court at least half an hour before the time stated in your Charge and Summons. Go to the counter and let a registrar know that you have arrived.

#### WHO CAN GO TO COURT

Your parents should go to court with you. If you want to take anyone else, talk to your lawyer first.

#### INTERPRETER

If you or your parents need an interpreter ask someone to contact the Children's Court Registrar at least **5 days** before the hearing. An interpreter will normally be provided if the Police who charged you know that you do not speak English.