

Child protection decisions database

The Legal Aid Queensland child protection decisions database contains an archive of child protection decisions from Queensland courts and tribunals.

Database contents

Decisions

- ▶ The database contains civil, administrative and appeal decisions about preventing and responding to violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation, and harmful practices against children.

Key benefits

- ▶ Users can access child protection decisions from multiple courts and tribunals, and use refined search capabilities to explore the database.

Unique search fields

Legal issues

- ▶ Search for matters concerning protection orders, custody, guardianship and contact.

Stage and court

- ▶ Filter by interim orders, final orders, or appeals. Additionally, filter by proceeding type pertaining to specific courts or tribunals.

Basic concepts

- ▶ Choose from a validated list of concepts determined by LAQ's in-house child protection lawyers.

How to use the database

Search fields

- ▶ Use the database's unique fields to search for specific aspects of a case.

Operators

- ▶ Employ the database's search operators to create a targeted search string.

Scope of searching

- ▶ This is not a full-text database, meaning the PDF attached to the record is not searched. In addition, the more fields used, the narrower the search becomes, as the fields are joined by an AND operator when the search is executed.

Search basics

Start broad and refine as required

- ▶ Begin with a few basic criteria such as catchwords and proceeding type. If you get too many results, add one or more additional search criteria. If you get too few results, take out one or more search criteria.

Useful functionalities

- ▶ View the full PDFs of decisions for a more in-depth understanding of the case or view the decision in AustLII's LawCite for more information such as related cases.

Helpful tips

- ▶ Case is ignored in the database, so you can use either upper or lowercase. Punctuation is ignored as well, except for the search operators: (&, !, /, =, :). Be mindful of all the search fields, as sometimes a dropdown can be active without you realising, which will result in an error, or no results returned.

A video tutorial with tips for searching this database is available on Grants Online. The video can be found under the information resources tab, or on the database search page. Contact the library at library@legalaid.qld.gov.au for more information.