



# WHAT IS A CHILDREN'S COURT?

**The Children's Act, 2005  
(Act No 38 of 2005)**



A Children's Court is a special court which deals with issues affecting children.



The children's court also takes care of children who are in need of care and protection and makes decisions about children who are abandoned, neglected or abused.



Any person/ child may approach the clerk of the children's court when he/ she believes that a child may be in need of care and protection.



The Children's Court can place a child in safe care or refer the child and/or the parent to services that they may require.

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Department:  
Justice and Constitutional Development  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





Children's Court does not deal with criminal cases.



Did you know that the following people **MUST** report a possible case of child abuse?

- Dentists
- Teachers
- Social workers
- Lawyers
- Ministers of religion
- Nurses
- Traditional leaders



Did you know that a child may be adopted jointly by a husband and wife; partners in a permanent domestic life-partnership; or other persons sharing a common household and forming a permanent family unit?

## Remember:

Children have the right to participate and the right to be heard

**So make your voice heard!**

For information visit: <http://www.justice.gov.za>

or send an e-mail to: [children@justice.gov.za](mailto:children@justice.gov.za)



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