

I'm Wondering...



What are court orders?

You might be wondering what court orders are and why adults say they have to follow them.

A court order is a decision made by a judge about what needs to happen in a child's life.

Court orders tell adults what they must do to help keep a child safe and cared for.

They are not rules for children.

They are instructions for grown-ups.

Some things court orders can decide and talk about:

Court orders can talk about:

- Where a child lives
- Who makes decisions
- How family time happens
- What support is needed
- How long certain plans last
- Not all court orders say the same things.

Here's one way to think about it:

A court order is like a strong rule written down by a judge that says:

"This is what needs to happen right now to keep things safe."

Adults have to follow court orders, even if it feels hard or unfair.

One thing to remember:

Court orders are made by adults to guide decisions — they are not a judgment about you.

You are not in trouble for wondering about them.

How some children might feel?

- Confused
- Upset
- Things are Unfair
- Like things have been taken away
- Like you don't belong anywhere
- Different at different times

All of these feelings are allowed.

For adults supporting this child

- Explain court orders honestly and in small pieces.
- Avoid saying "the court decided" without explanation.
- Separate the child's behaviour or worth from legal decisions.

This is about understanding and emotional safety, not agreement.

If you want to...

- If you want to know what a court order says about you, you can ask.
- If you want it explained in simpler words, you can ask for that.
- If you don't agree with what's happening, you can talk about how it feels.
- If you don't want to talk right now, that's okay.
- You don't have to understand everything at once.