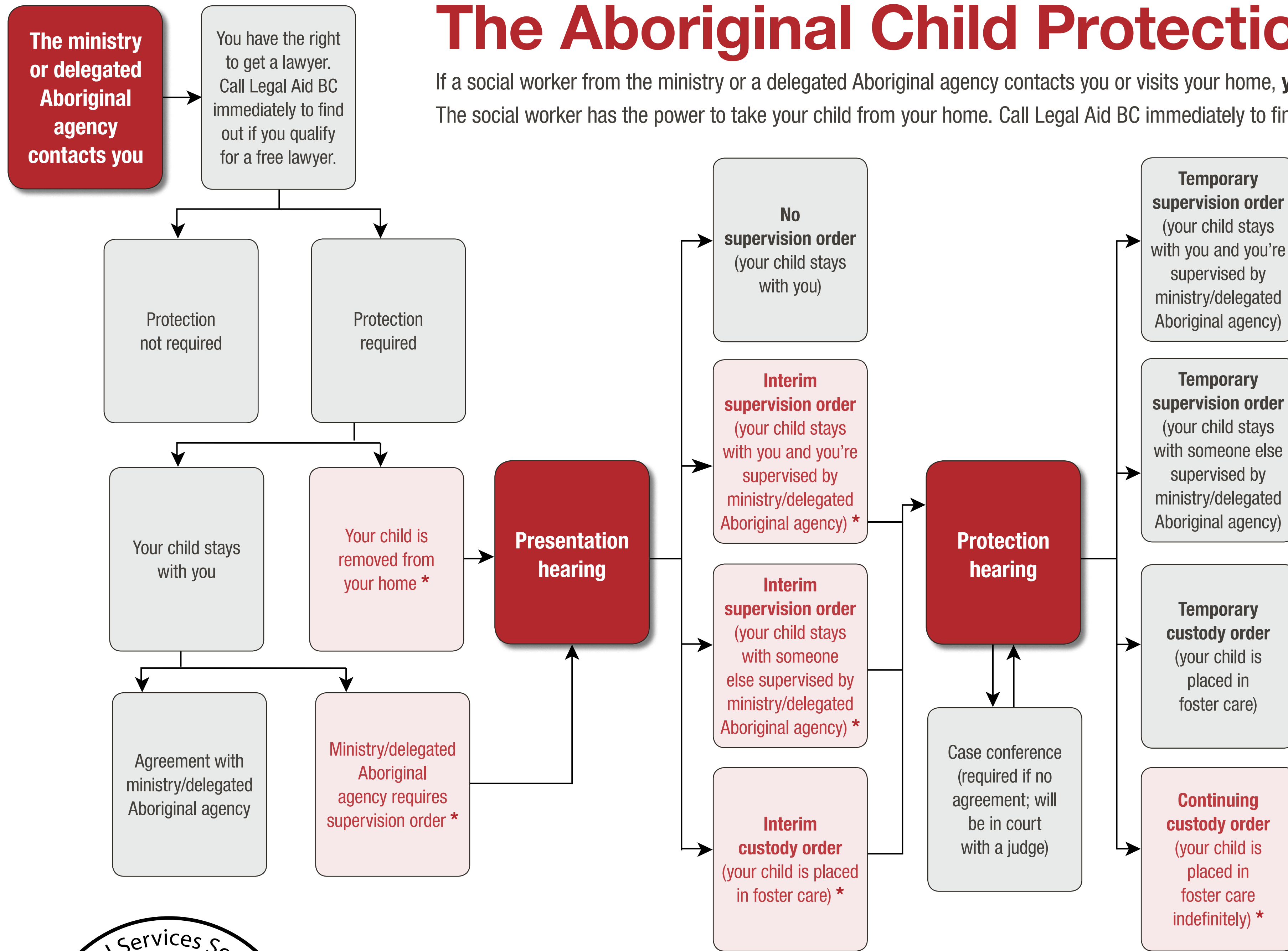


The Aboriginal Child Protection Process

If a social worker from the ministry or a delegated Aboriginal agency contacts you or visits your home, **you have the right to legal advice.** The social worker has the power to take your child from your home. Call Legal Aid BC immediately to find out if you qualify for a free lawyer.



Legal Aid BC

604-408-2172 (Greater Vancouver)
1-866-577-2525 (no charge outside Greater Vancouver)

Mediator

Ask your lawyer or social worker about getting an **Aboriginal child protection mediator** to help with your case. A mediator is someone who is specially trained to help people reach an agreement. You can ask for a mediator at *any time* during the child protection process.

* Ministry/delegated Aboriginal agency must notify your child's Aboriginal community or organization

Your child's Aboriginal organization may be a band, friendship centre, treaty First Nation, Aboriginal community, Aboriginal organization as listed in the Child and Family Service Act regulations, or the Nisga'a Lisims government. Talk to your lawyer to make sure the right people in your child's Aboriginal organization are informed at the right time of decisions that affect your child.



If a child is under a continuing custody order, get legal advice. Applications can be made to:

- Cancel a continuing custody order
- Access a child under a continuing custody order
- Adopt a child under a continuing custody order (provincial or customary Aboriginal adoption)
- Appeal court decisions (time limits apply, and in some cases leave is required)
- Transfer custody to a third party (could also happen before the continuing custody order has been granted)

