

In Australia, grandparents do not have an automatic legal right to see or care for their grandchildren. However, the Family Law Act 1975 formally recognizes the importance of grandparents and allows them to apply to the court for "parenting orders" if contact is denied. The law always prioritizes the best interests of the child. Under Australian family law, your legal standing depends on a few key factors:

- **Right to Apply:** Because you are a grandparent, you are legally considered a person "concerned with the care, welfare or development of the child". This gives you the right to apply for court orders that specify who the child lives with or how much time they spend with you.
- **The Child's Best Interests:** The court assesses what is in the child's best interest above all else. This includes their right to maintain meaningful relationships with significant people in their lives, such as grandparents, provided it is safe to do so.
- **Steps to Take:** Going to court should be a last resort. The usual process involves attempting family dispute resolution (mediation) with the parents to reach an agreement. If mediation fails or isn't appropriate, you can apply for a formal parenting order through the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia.

To help me give you the best guidance, tell me a little more about your situation: Is your grandchild's contact being restricted due to a parental separation, a family conflict, or another reason? Have you tried any informal agreements or mediation yet? Do you currently have a safe, established relationship with your grandchild? I can share what the first steps might look like for you.