

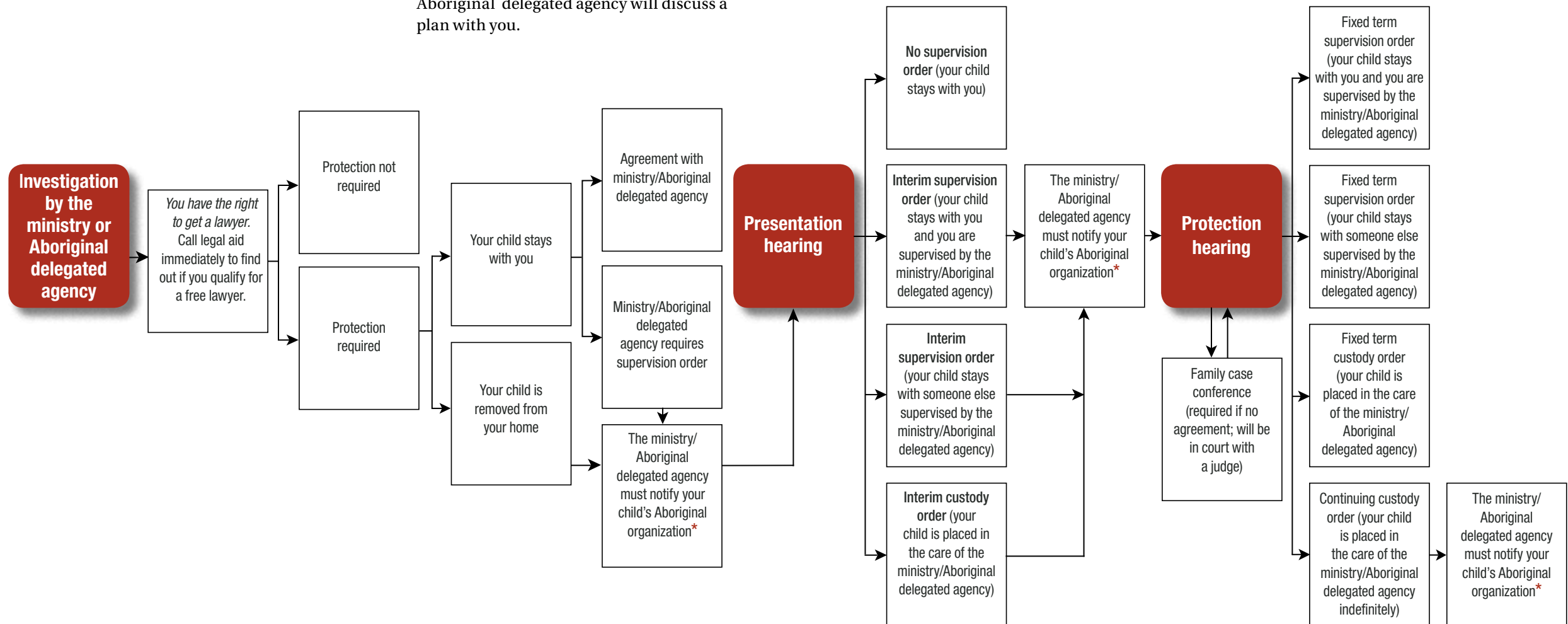
The Aboriginal child protection process: Information for Aboriginal parents and communities

Child protection laws and what they mean for Aboriginal families

It is very important for Aboriginal children to be able to spend time with their extended families and communities. Child protection laws in BC recognize the importance of Aboriginal family ties to Aboriginal children.

If the ministry or Aboriginal delegated agency decides that your child needs protection, you can:

- ask for a **family group conference**. A facilitator will organize the conference. The conference is *not* in court and a judge is *not* involved. Your family members, friends, and other people who help to care for your child can be involved, as well as your lawyer and advocate. At the conference, a social worker from the ministry or Aboriginal delegated agency will discuss a plan with you.
- ask the ministry or Aboriginal delegated agency to use **traditional decision making**. Your community leaders and family members can take part in working out a plan.
- ask for a **mediator** (someone who will help work out an agreement between you and the ministry/Aboriginal delegated agency).



* Note

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 a Nisga'a Lisims government. *Talk to your lawyer to make sure the right people in your child's Aboriginal organization are informed at the appropriate time of decisions that affect your child.*

Legal aid

604-408-2172 (in the Lower Mainland)
1-866-577-2525 (no charge, outside the Lower Mainland)

