Suspension powers under the amended *Working with Children Check Act 2000*

In what circumstances can my blue card be suspended?

Changes to the Working with Children Check Act 2000 (**WWCC Act**) which came into effect from 20 September 2025, give the Chief Executive power to suspend a persons blue card or exemption card if:

- The person is charged with a prescribed offence;[1] or
- In the case of an exemption card, if the person is a registered teacher and their teacher registration is suspended under section 49 of the *Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005*; or
- If the person holds an interstate WWCC authority and that authority is suspended or an interstate interim bar is imposed on the person; or
- If the Chief Executive becomes aware of assessable information that was not known to them at the time they issued the person with a blue card; and
    - the Chief Executive reasonably believes the information is relevant to deciding whether the person would pose a risk to the safety of children if the person continues to hold a blue card; and
    - The Chief Executive considers that permitted the person to continue to hold a blue card during the suspension, the person would pose a risk to the safety of children.

What happens if my blue card is suspended?

If the Chief Executive suspends your blue card, you will receive a written '*suspension notice*' which outlines:

- The reason for the suspension;
- How long the suspension will continue;
- The effect of the suspension;
- That you must return your blue card to the Chief Executive immediately; and
- Review and appeal rights.

[1] See section 295 (3) of the *Working with Children Check Act 2000* for the definition of a prescribed offence.

What is the effect of the suspension?

If your card is suspended, you will be a 'restricted person' for the duration of the suspension and you must not:

- Start regulated employment;
- Perform work that is regulated employment; or
- Start or continue a regulated business.

Who will be notified that my blue card has been suspended?

Depending on whether you are engaged in regulated employment, the Chief Executive may notify your employer or proposed employer. For a list of notifiable persons, see schedule 7 of the WWCC Act.

How long will my card be suspended for?

You card will be suspended until the Chief Executive decides to either end the suspension or cancel your card.

Can I apply to end the suspension?

You can apply to end the suspension if your card has been suspended for at least six (6) months.

Can I ask the Chief Executive to cancel my card?

Yes, you may request that the Chief Executive cancels your card.

How will the Chief Executive decide whether to cancel my card or end my suspension?

The Chief Executive will conduct a risk assessment as if you were applying for a new blue card. See How has the Blue Card test changed.

Can I review the decision to issue me a suspension at QCAT?

Yes, but only in specific circumstances:

- Where you have applied to the Chief Executive to cancel the suspension after six months; and
- The Chief Executive has decided to continue the suspension; and
- You are not the person the subject of the offence, action or other information that has triggered the suspension.

What if the Chief Executive cancels my blue card?

The Chief Executive will also give you a negative notice and you will be a restricted person.

Can I challenge the decision to cancel my blue card and be issued a negative notice?

Yes, you have **28 days** to apply to the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (**QCAT**) to review the decision. For more information see Applying to QCAT for review of a blue card related decision (after 20 September 2025).

For more resources, visit LawRight's Blue Card factsheets page online.

This resource was funded by a grant from the Community Legal Education Collaboration Fund

Last updated: 4 September 2026