

[date]

[name]

[address]

[address]

Dear [name]:

The Ministry of Social Development appreciates the efforts of relatives to provide a safe and caring home for children when their parents are unable to do so. The ministry has reviewed the application for Child in Home of a Relative (CIHR) assistance for [name of child].

The ministry provides assistance for CIHR when all eligibility criteria under section 6 of the Employment and Assistance Regulation as it existed on March 31, 2010, and as authorized by the new Child in the Home of a Relative Program Transition Regulation, are met. The criteria require that:

- the child resides in the relative's home;
- the child's parent placed the child with the relative;
- the child's parent does not reside with the relative;
- the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) determines there is no evidence of risk to the child in the home;
- the relative with whom the child resides has not entered into an agreement under section 8 of the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* in relation to the child; and,
- the relative with whom the child resides or the parent of the child provides accurate and complete information from all persons age 18 or over living in the home.

The ministry has determined that the child is not eligible for CIHR assistance because MCFD has informed the ministry that there is evidence of a level of risk to the child in the home that indicates that the relative's home is not an appropriate place for the child (under section 6(2.1)(d) of the Employment and Assistance Regulation as it existed on March 31, 2010). Enclosed is an Information Sheet that explains how MCFD determines if there is evidence of risk to the child.

Based on the information received from MCFD, the ministry has also determined that CIHR assistance will be discontinued for any children in your home currently receiving CIHR assistance (under sections 6(2.1)(e) and 34.1 of the Employment and Assistance Regulation as it existed on March 31, 2010). As a result, you will not

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The Ministry of Social Development operates under the authority of the *Employment and Assistance Act* and Regulation, and the *Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Act* and Regulation.

receive any more cheques from the ministry for CIHR assistance. As CIHR assistance is sent separately for each child, a letter for each child whose assistance has been discontinued has been enclosed.

If you have questions or concerns about MCFD's screening or determination that there is evidence of risk to the child, you may contact the MCFD CIHR Screening Information Contact at: [choose region]. You may also wish to contact your local MCFD district office to discuss alternative voluntary support services. To contact your local MCFD district office you can call Enquiry BC at: [choose applicable telephone].

If dissatisfied with the ministry's decisions to deny and/or discontinue CIHR assistance, you or another person on behalf of the child(ren) has the right to request that the ministry reconsider its decision(s). To initiate this process, the Request for Reconsideration form must be submitted within 20 business days from the day you receive this letter. You can get this form and all information that we considered to make these decisions from your Employment and Assistance office, or by phoning 1-866-866-0800 or [office number]. We have enclosed the Reconsideration and Appeal brochure to give you more information about the reconsideration process.

If you meet the definition of a parent (which includes legal guardians and persons with legal custody) and all other eligibility criteria, you may apply for income assistance with the child as your dependent. Other supports may be available through the MCFD. For more information or for help finding the phone number of your local MCFD office, please call 250-387-7027 in Victoria or toll-free 1-877-387-7027 from anywhere in British Columbia.

Sincerely,

Ministry Worker

HSD3210(10/12/7)

Enclosure(s)

## **CHILD IN THE HOME OF A RELATIVE (CIHR) INFORMATION ABOUT SCREENING CHECKS TO DETERMINE LEVEL OF RISK**

The Ministry of Social Development (SD) and the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) are working together to enhance the safety of children being cared for by relatives. As of December 1, 2007, new screening checks conducted by MCFD are required as part of the application process for Child in the Home of a Relative (CIHR) assistance from SD. As well, screening checks are required when any person age 18 or over moves into the home, and when a dependent child in the home turns 18.

MCFD determines if there is evidence a child could be at risk in the relative's home by conducting screening checks on:

- The relative who is applying for CIHR on behalf of the child;
- Any other person age 18 years or older who lives in the relative's home, either full-time or part-time.

The screening checks consist of:

- A Prior Contact Check: a review of any records of previous involvement that MCFD may have had with the individual;
- A CORNET check: a check of information about criminal charges and convictions (including convictions that have been pardoned), probation, stay of proceedings, alternative measures and unsealed Young Offender offences from British Columbia's correctional system.

### **EVIDENCE OF RISK**

If the screening finds any of the following results for a person age 18 or over in the relative's household, MCFD informs SD there is evidence of risk and SD denies the application for CIHR assistance and discontinues CIHR assistance for any other children living in the home:

#### **MCFD Prior Contact Check**

- A child protection report under s. 13 of the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* that has resulted in a current removal of a child, temporary or continuing custody order, or a supervision order;
- A closed protection file where risks were not addressed (e.g. family moves before investigation can be completed);
- An open child protection investigation, and the social worker responsible for the case believes there is risk in the home that compromises the home as an appropriate place for the child; or
- An open protective family service file and the social worker responsible for the case believe there is risk in the home that compromises the home as an appropriate place for the child.

## CORNET Check

A charge or conviction for any of the following Criminal Code offences that have been designated under the *Criminal Record Review Act* as relevant to the safety of a child:

- section 151: (Sexual Interference);
  - section 152: (Invitation to Sexual Touching);
  - section 153: (Sexual Exploitation);
  - Section 153.1: (Sexual Exploitation of Person with Disability)
  - section 155: (Incest);
  - section 159: (Anal Intercourse);
  - section 160: (Bestiality);
  - section 161: (Order of Prohibition);
  - section 163.1: (Child Pornography);
  - section 170: (Parent or Guardian Procuring Sexual Activity);
  - section 171: (Householder Permitting Sexual Activity);
  - section 172: (Corrupting Children);
  - section 172.1: (Luring a Child);
  - section 173 (1): (Indecent Acts);
  - section 173 (2): (Exposure);
  - section 177: (Trespassing at Night);
  - section 179: (Vagrancy);
  - section 212 (1): (Procuring a Person for the Purposes of Prostitution);
  - section 212 (2): (Living Off Avails of Child Prostitution);
  - section 212 (2.1): (Living Off Avails of Child Prostitution, Aggravating Circumstances);
  - section 212 (4): (Attempting to Obtain the Sexual Services of a Child);
  - section 215: (Duties of Persons to Provide Necessities);
  - section 218: (Abandoning Child);
  - section 220: (Causing Death by Criminal Negligence);
  - section 221: (Causing Bodily Harm by Criminal Negligence);
  - section 229: (Murder);
  - section 235: (Punishment for Murder);
  - section 236: (Punishment for Manslaughter);
  - section 237: (Punishment for Infanticide);
  - section 238: (Killing Unborn Child in Act of Birth);
  - section 239: (Attempt to Commit Murder);
  - section 240: (Accessory after Fact to Murder);
  - section 242: (Neglect to Obtain Assistance in Child Birth);
  - section 243: (Concealing Body of Child);
  - section 244: (Causing Bodily Harm with Intent);
  - section 245: (Administering Noxious Thing);
  - section 246: (Overcoming Resistance to Commission of Offence);
  - section 264: (Criminal Harassment);
  - section 264.1: (Uttering Threats);
  - section 266: (Assault);
  - section 267: (Assault with a Weapon or Causing Bodily Harm);
  - section 268: (Aggravated Assault);
  - section 269: (Unlawfully Causing Bodily Harm);
  - section 271: (Sexual Assault);
  - section 272: (Sexual Assault with a Weapon, Threats to a Third Party or Causing Bodily Harm);
  - section 273: (Aggravated Sexual Assault);
  - section 273.3: (Removal of Child from Canada);
  - section 279: (Kidnapping/Forcible Confinement);
  - section 279.1: (Hostage Taking);
  - section 280: (Abduction of Person under Sixteen);
  - section 281: (Abduction of Person under Fourteen);
  - section 282: (Abduction in Contravention of Custody Order);
  - section 283: (Abduction);
  - section 372: (False Messages/Indecent Telephone Calls/Harassing Telephone Calls);
  - section 446: (Cruelty to Animals);
  - section 810: (Where Injury or Damage Feared);
  - section 810.1: (Where Fear of Sexual Offence).
- Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (Canada)*
- section 5: (Trafficking in Substances);
  - section 6: (Importing and Exporting);
  - section 7: (Production of Substance).