



# Caring for a child or youth following a removal

## Supporting children, youth, families, and communities during times of change.

When a child or youth is removed from their home for safety reasons, the Ministry of Children and Family Development and/or an Indigenous Child and Family Service Agency (ICFSA) work with families, communities, and/or the child or youth's Nation or Indigenous community to make sure they are cared for and supported. In these instances, our goal is to keep children and youth connected to their family, culture, and community whenever possible.

**When caring for a child or youth following a removal, it is important to always follow the child welfare worker's instructions about all aspects of the child or youth's care.**

### Why removal happens

Removal happens when a child or youth's safety or well-being cannot be ensured in their current home.

Under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* (CFCSA), the Director assumes care of a child or youth when they are removed. A child welfare worker becomes responsible for decisions about the child or youth's care.

### What happens next

After a removal, the child welfare worker makes sure the child or youth is safe and starts planning for their short-term and long-term care.

Whenever possible, the child or youth may stay with family or trusted adults. Even then, they are still considered "in care" until a court order is made or they return to their parent. During this time, the person caring for them is a contracted caregiver under the CFCSA.

### Screening and assessment

Caregivers must be screened and approved before a child or youth can live in their home.

Screening includes:

- Criminal record checks for all adults 18 and older in the home
- A review of any past child protection involvement
- Reference checks
- A home visit to confirm safety and identify any additional needs

This screening allows the child or youth to stay in the home for a short time after removal. If the child or youth will stay longer, more assessment steps may be needed. A criminal record, past child welfare involvement, or health concerns do not automatically prevent someone from caring for a child or youth.



## Court process

The child welfare worker must attend court within 7 days of the removal. This is called the Presentation Hearing.

The court reviews the reasons for removal and decides whether the child or youth:

- Returns to their parents
- Remains in the care of the Director
- Is placed with someone else, such as a family member or a person with traditional or cultural responsibilities

The removal period ends when a court order is made or when the child or youth returns to the parent.

**Date and time of presentation hearing:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Location of presentation hearing:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Instructions for care

During removal, the child welfare worker has legal care and makes all decisions about the child or youth's care.

All contact between the child or youth and their parents or others must be discussed and approved by the child welfare worker.

This includes visits, calls, texts, and online communication.

### Initial access arrangements:

*Your child welfare worker will outline the details below.*

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Contact information

If you have any questions, contact the child welfare worker:

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**After hours line:** 1-800-663-9122

## Rights of children and youth in care

Children and youth in care have rights under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*:

- Food, clothing, nurturing, and the same quality of care as other children in the home
- Information about their care plan
- Opportunities to share their views on decisions that affect them
- Reasonable privacy and a place for personal belongings
- Freedom from corporal punishment
- Clear expectations for behaviour and consequences
- Needed medical and dental care
- Access to social, recreational, and cultural activities
- Religious instruction and participation of their choice
- Support to maintain their culture
- Private conversations with family (unless limited by court), lawyers, the Representative for Children and Youth, the Ombudsperson, or elected officials
- Information about their rights and how to exercise them under relevant legislation



## Rights of Indigenous Children and Youth

Indigenous children and youth have the right to guidance, encouragement, and support to learn and practice their traditions, customs, and languages, and to belong to their Nation or Indigenous communities.

