

CHILD IN THE HOME OF A RELATIVE (CIHR) INFORMATION ABOUT SCREENING REQUIREMENT

The Ministry of Housing and Social Development (MHSD) 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 MHSD.

MCFD will determine 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.

Each person age 18 or over who lives in the relative's home must sign a form consenting to be screened by MCFD. Some examples of persons who must consent to be screened are the relative's husband, wife, partner, boyfriend or girlfriend, including a boyfriend or girlfriend who stays with the relative part-time; a family member who lives with the relative; a dependent who turns 18, or a tenant/roommate who shares common living space with the child.

Once the child begins receiving CIHR assistance, the relative must report if a person age 18 years or older joins the household. The person joining the household must consent to be screened. The CIHR cheque will be held until the completed screening consent form is received by the ministry.

If any person age 18 or over living in the relative's home is found to present a risk to the child or refuses to consent to be screened, the application for CIHR assistance will be denied. CIHR assistance will also be cancelled for any children living in the home who are already receiving CIHR assistance.

STEPS

To meet this new screening requirement, relatives must do the following:

1. On the CIHR application form, list the names, any aliases and date-of-birth of all persons age 18 or over who live in the CIHR home, either full-time or part-time.
2. Complete the consent form and have each person age 18 or over, who lives in their home complete and sign the consent form.

3. Return the completed forms as a package to the local Employment and Assistance Centre.

Once all the completed consent forms have been returned, MHSD and MCFD staff will do the following:

1. The MHSD worker will fax the completed consent forms to MCFD.
2. MCFD staff will screen each person who completed the consent form.
3. Based on the results of the screening, MCFD will inform MHSD that there is “no evidence of risk” to the child, or there is “evidence of risk” to the child.
4. If MCFD informs MHSD there is no evidence of risk, and all other CIHR criteria are met, the application for CIHR assistance will be approved and the child will begin receiving CIHR assistance.
5. If MCFD informs MHSD there is evidence of risk, the application for CIHR assistance will be denied. The relative will receive a letter from MHSD informing him or her of this denial. CIHR assistance will be discontinued for any other children living in the home.

DETERMINING IF THERE IS EVIDENCE OF RISK

The screening checks will 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.

MCFD will inform MHSD there is evidence of risk, and MHSD will deny the application for CIHR assistance, if the screening finds any of the following results for a person age 18 or over in the relative’s household:

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.
- An open protective family service file 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.

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).