

## **What is the definition of a dependent child?**

With respect to a parent, means a child, other than a child who is 18 years of age and is a person with disabilities, who resides in the parent's place of residence for more than 50 per cent of each month and relies on that parent for the necessities of life.

In relation to a dependent child, a parent includes but is not limited to:

- A biological mother or father;
  - An adoptive mother or father;
  - A person with legal custody, other than a director under the Child, Family and Community Service Act or an administrator under the Adoption Act;
  - A person with legal guardianship, other than a director under the Child, Family and Community Service Act or an administrator under the Adoption Act
- OR
- a person who is the parent of the parenting dependent child.

A client temporarily caring for a child without legal custody or guardianship may also be considered a parent. Caring for a child may include one or more of the following, but is not limited to:

- making day-to-day decisions affecting the child;
- having day-to-day care, control and supervision of the child;
- making decisions respecting where the child will reside;
- making decisions respecting the child's education and participation in extracurricular activities;
- making decisions respecting the child's cultural, linguistic, religious and spiritual upbringing and heritage;
- applying for a passport, licence, permit, benefit, privilege or other thing for the child;
- exercising any other responsibilities reasonably necessary to nurture the child's development.

Note: Under certain circumstance a dependent child may be excluded from a family unit. For example, when two parents are separated but are residing together and the dependent child resides with both the separated parents 100% of the time.