

## **When your child is in care**

When your child is in care, a Children's Service Worker will work with your child. The worker will also work with those in the facility where the child is living, for example a foster home or group home. Your family will continue to have a Family Service Worker who will work with you.

Your child's worker has talked to your child about his or her rights and responsibilities, and has given your child a booklet about them.

**As a parent, you can help your child while in the care of Durham CAS by understanding, and making sure your child understands, their rights and responsibilities.**

### **While in care, your child has the right to:**

- Be informed of his or her rights.
- Be provided healthy and nutritious meals.
- Receive an education appropriate to aptitude.
- Live in a safe, caring and comfortable home where house rules and responsibilities are clear.
- Visit regularly and privately with family, unless a judge rules otherwise.
- Receive appropriate correction for misbehaviour, but not physical punishment.
- Have appropriate clothing for their age and activities.
- Receive regular medical and dental care.
  
- Participate in activities in keeping with his or her cultural and religious background or preferences.
- Participate in recreational activities according to his or her abilities and interests.
- Have reasonable privacy and possession of personal property.
- Send and receive mail that is not read or censored, except for reasons of potential emotional and/or physical harm.
- Not be locked in a room, house or building except where: a) arrested by the police; b) authorized by a judge through criminal court proceedings; or c) through a judge's order for secure treatment.
- Be free from discrimination by staff, foster parents and/or volunteers because of culture, race, religion and/or sexual orientation.
  
- Speak privately with his or her worker, a lawyer, a representative or advocate, the Ombudsman, or a member of federal or provincial government. If a First Nations youth, he or she also has the right to privately speak or visit with a Band representative.
  
- Participate in the development of his or her Plan of Care.
- Be involved in significant decisions concerning medical treatment, education, religion and placement.
- Be notified of, and attend court hearings that affect them unless the court and /or the Society decide that it is not in their best interest to be there.
  
- Receive Extended Care and Maintenance between the ages of 18 - 21 if they meet the eligibility criteria.

**While in care, your child has the responsibility:**

- To abide by the rules contracted between themselves and the care giver, and accept the consequences should he or she misbehave.
- To care for their personal hygiene.
- To demonstrate respect for others, including a respect for others belongings.
- To cooperate with his or her worker and caregiver.
- To attend school.
- To seek and secure employment should he or she leave school.

**Call your child's Children's Service Worker (CSW) when you have questions about:**

- Your child's placement
- Access visits with your child
- Your child's treatment needs, e.g. medical, dental, counseling
- Your child's education

**Call your Family Service Worker (FSW) about:**

- Overall planning for your family
- Court planning

**As a parent you have the right to initiate the complaint resolution process if you feel your child's rights have not been respected. You may request information about this process from your worker, or a brochure is available on our website.**

**Serious Occurrence Investigation**

A *Serious Occurrence Investigation* takes place when a child in care reports suspected abuse, or when abuse allegations are made about a child in care. Some high risk behaviours demonstrated by children are also considered to be a *Serious Occurrence*.

The Society investigates these situations quickly and thoroughly to ensure your child is safe.

Parents will be advised by the worker if a *Serious Occurrence* takes place and how the Society plans to protect the child.

Worker's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Ext. \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

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