

Coming into
the Care of
Children's Aid
Society



York Region
Children's Aid Society

Worker's Name:

Phone: 905-895-2318 or
1-800-718-3850 ext. _____

Agency website:
www.yorkcas.org

We know that children do best in families. It is Children's Aid Society's intent and belief that children belong at home with their families whenever possible. Helping children means helping and supporting their family—especially when their family is in crisis. Our job is to support children and their families to find or access services in their community to help keep them together.

When a Child Is Not Safe

If Children's Aid Society finds that your child is unsafe, or at risk of being unsafe, whether physically, emotionally, or from neglect, your child may be moved to an alternate place of safety. If your worker finds that your child will benefit from being temporarily removed from your home, we do our best to keep your child with extended family or friends. This is known as a kinship arrangement. Others, such as neighbours, teachers, or coaches, who know your child may also present a plan to care for your child and be considered for a kinship arrangement. If a kinship option is not immediately available, your child may be placed with a foster family.

What Happens Next

Your worker will work with your family to develop a plan to address concerns and re-establish a safe home environment for your child. Our goal is to work with you to ensure your child can live safely with your family.

Parent's Rights

Should your child be placed outside your home, we are required to get a court order allowing your child to remain in the temporary care of Children's Aid Society. You have the right to, and are encouraged to, have a lawyer to represent you in this process. If you cannot afford a lawyer, you can request assistance from the Legal Aid Office (1-800-668-8258). If you are unable to obtain a lawyer, you can sign up to speak to Duty Counsel (a free lawyer provided by the court) on the day of court. To speak with Duty Counsel on the day of court, it is best to arrive as early as possible to sign up as there can be a long wait. For more information visit www.legalaid.on.ca.

Seeing Your Child

A visit schedule will be set up with you and your child as soon as possible. Visits will take place at one of Children's Aid Society's offices. Visits may move to the community as goals that you and your worker set together are met.

Participating in Your Child's Plan of Care Meetings

A Plan of Care meeting is where goals are discussed and created to best support your child and your family. As your child's parent, your participation in these meetings is vital. Discuss with your worker how you will participate.



Workers Involved with Your Child's Care

- An **Intake or Family Service Worker** is assigned to support your family. Together, you will discuss your child's safety and well-being and develop a plan that works towards reunification.
- A **Children's Service Worker** will work directly with your child while they are in the care of Children's Aid Society. This worker is responsible to ensure that your child's physical, emotional, psychological, educational, behavioural, cultural, and spiritual needs are met while in care.
- A **Kinship Worker** is assigned to help support the family who is caring for your child in a kinship arrangement.
- A **Foster Care Worker** is assigned to support the foster caregivers that are caring for your child if they are in the care of Children's Aid Society.

Your Responsibilities

- Treat workers and staff with respect
- Communicate promptly with workers and staff
- Talk to your worker if you have questions or complaints
- Provide legal identification (e.g. driver's license)

Your Rights

You have the right to:

Be treated with respect and in a culturally sensitive manner

Be offered an interpreter during any visits and for all interactions with Children's Aid Society

Be involved in the development of service plans for your family

Be involved in making decisions regarding your family

Expect services in a professional and timely manner

Have your questions answered and phone calls returned promptly

Know about all options and the consequences of any decisions or actions

Understand the legal and court process if applicable to your situation

Be able to provide feedback or express concerns/complaints freely

Have your information kept confidential


Be given access to your information in your record upon your request



Indigenous Identity and Heritage

If you or your child identify as First Nations, Inuit or Métis, or having Indigenous heritage, we will connect you with **Dnaagdawenmag Binnoojiiyag Child and Family Services**, who are an Indigenous child and family well-being agency providing culturally and spiritually appropriate services to Indigenous communities.

Contact them at:

 705-295-7135

 www.binnoojiiyag.ca



How to Make a Complaint

We want to understand your concerns and work with you to reach a resolution. Please talk about your concerns with your worker as soon as possible.

For information on Children's Aid Society's formal complaint procedure, please visit our website: www.yorkcas.org/client.asp

Contact Us

Foster Care

fostering@yorkcas.org

Adoption

adoption@yorkcas.org

Volunteer

volunteering@yorkcas.org

Presentations

speakers.bureau@yorkcas.org

Donate

www.yorkregionchildrensfund.org

Employment

human.resources@yorkcas.org



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