



Kinship
Caregivers:
Keeping Kids
Connected



Worker's Name:

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

Agency website:
www.yorkcas.org

Keeping Kids Connected

We know that children do best in families. If a child or youth cannot live at home, the goal is to have them live with people they have established relationships with, such as extended family or friends. This is known as a kinship arrangement, when a relative or someone who is emotionally close to a child takes primary responsibility to care for and raise the child. During this time, Children's Aid Society continues to work with the child's family to re-establish a safe home environment. Our goal is to work with families to ensure children can live safely with their families.

Finding Kin

When Children's Aid Society is involved with a family, we ask children and their parents about extended family, friends, and other supports. We use a family finding process to bring together children, parents, extended family, and community.

Kinship Caregivers

Kin includes extended family, such as grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, or friends. It could also be any member of a child's circle or community with whom the child has an established relationship. Others, such as neighbours, teachers, coaches, members of religious community, or daycare providers, who know the child may also present a plan to care for the child.

Becoming a Kinship Caregiver

You can contact Children's Aid Society to present a plan of care for a child, or you may be contacted by a worker inquiring about your ability to help.

Assessing Kinship Caregivers

Once potential caregivers are found, an assessment is done to ensure their ability to provide and care for the child. Kinship caregivers must demonstrate their ability to meet the needs of the child as if they were the parents in the interim. They must also complete police background and child welfare checks.

Benefits to Children and Youth Living with Kin

- Able to live with people they know and trust
 - Have strong sense of identity and belonging to their family
 - Are more likely to remain living with their siblings
 - Are more likely to remain in their community and are less likely to have to change schools
 - Are less likely to run away
 - Are better able to develop resiliency and the ability to grow into confident adults
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Responsibilities of Kinship Caregivers

- Provide a safe, secure, supportive, and nurturing home
 - Participate in planning for the child
 - Help the child maintain a relationship with their parents
 - Be financially and legally responsible for the child's care
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Support for Kin Caregivers

Kinship caregivers are assigned a support worker from Children's Aid Society to assist them in supporting children living in their home. Kinship caregivers may also be eligible for Temporary Care Assistance through Ontario Works, the Canada Child Benefit, and subsidized daycare.

Your Kinship Service Worker

- Helps create plans and goals for the child in your care
- Provides direction to community services and assists you with completing applications for services
- Supports you in working with the child's school
- Helps you and the child adjust to the new living arrangement

Legal Responsibilities

If a child is placed in your home through a court order, you have the right to a lawyer to support you in this process. 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

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



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)

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



Follow us on Twitter!

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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 Binnoojiyag 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.binnoojiyag.ca

Important Phone Numbers

Temporary Care Assistance through Ontario Works:

York Region

1-877-464-9675 • www.york.ca

Toronto

416-397-0330

www.toronto.ca/socialservices

Peel

905-793-9200

www.peelregion.ca/hsapply

Durham

905-428-8982 • www.durham.ca

Simcoe

705-722-3132 • www.simcoe.ca

Canada Child Benefit

1-800-387-1193

Telehealth Ontario

1-866-797-0000

Legal Aid Ontario

1-800-668-8258