



Newfoundland
Labrador

**Department of Child, Youth and
Family Services**

Presentation Overview

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History and Structure of CYFS



- The Department of Child, Youth and Family Services was created on March 26, 2009
- The lines of business of the Department include:
 - Protective Intervention Services
 - Adoption Services
 - Youth Services
 - Community Youth Corrections

Statistical Overview

Protective Intervention

- Children 4620
- Families 2890

In Care/Custody 950

Youth Services 205

Kinship Services 520

Foster Homes 520

As of 12/31/2015

Children and Youth Care and Protection Act

- The *CYCP Act* proclaimed in June 2011 is the legislative authority for the delivery of services to children, youth and families that include:
 - Protective Intervention Services,
 - In Care Program,
 - Placement Resources for Children and Youth
 - Youth Services
- The purpose of Act is to promote the safety and well-being of children and youth who are in need of protective intervention
- All interventions are based on children who are in need of protective intervention and a range of supports and services are provided to children, youth and families
- The overriding and paramount consideration in decisions made under the Act is the “best interests” of the child or youth

Duty to Report

- Everyone has a duty to report child maltreatment. The standard is the same for all individuals under the *CYCP Act* (S. 11)
 - Immediately report any information concerning a child that may need protection
 - Report all the information you know
 - Referral sources are kept confidential (unless otherwise ordered released by the Court)
 - It is an offence to withhold information

Grounds For Protective Intervention

- Focuses on parent's action or lack of appropriate action
Grounds include:
 - Physical harm or risk of physical harm
 - Emotional harm or risk of emotional harm
 - Sexual abuse or risk of sexual abuse
 - Failure to obtain essential treatment (medical, psychiatric, surgical or remedial) on child's behalf when recommended by a qualified health practitioner

Grounds For Protective Intervention

- Left with inadequate supervision (appropriate to the child's developmental level)
- Living in a situation where there is violence or a risk of violence
- Living with a parent who shows a propensity towards violence or allegedly killed or seriously injured another person
- Parent(s) unavailable to care for child and did not make appropriate arrangements for the child

Grounds For Protective Intervention

- Parent(s) deceased and adequate provisions have not been made
- Parent unwilling or unable to care for child
- Abandonment
- Child under the age of 12 allegedly killed or seriously injured another person or caused serious property damage and the parent encouraged the child or did not respond adequately

Responding to a Disclosure of Child Maltreatment

- If a child discloses to you:
 - Reassure and support the child using such statements as “I’m glad you told me” or “You did the right thing”
 - Listen openly and calmly
 - Write down the information and immediately report to CYFS
 - Do not make promises to the child regarding the disclosure
 - Seek direction from CYFS

Responding to a Disclosure of Child Maltreatment

- **CYFS response to a report of child maltreatment:**
 - Screening the information
 - Investigation
 - Determining future risk
 - Planning
 - Case closure

Placement of Children and Youth

- Children usually come into care when a less intrusive course of action that would adequately protect the child is not available and the court makes a legal finding that the child is in need of protective intervention due to concerns for their safety and well-being
- Parents may also voluntarily transfer the care of their child to a Manager of Child, Youth and Family Services
- Relatives, non-custodial parents and individuals significant to the child are normally considered first when exploring placement options
- If a family member or significant other is unavailable, the child or youth is matched with either an approved foster family or residential setting that best meets that child/youth's needs

In Care - Level System:

Goal of the Level System:

- To enhance placement options for children and youth in need of out of home care by better supporting existing resources and developing new resources

Level System:

Level 1: Kinship homes and relative/significant other and regular foster homes without PRIDE

Level 2: Relative/significant other or regular foster homes with PRIDE

Level 3: Specialized Foster Homes

Level 4: Contracted Staffed Residential Services

Special Projects:

Waypoints Pilot Program

- A Pilot Program of CYFS delivered by Waypoints in partnership with the Newfoundland and Labrador Foster Families Association (NLFFA) implemented to support and provide education and training to foster parents
- Commenced in September 2015

Family-based Care Pilot Program

- A Pilot Program of CYFS whereby a Service Provider uses a family-based carer model to provide long term or short term placement for children or youth who are in the care and/or custody of a manager. Usually used where a child has a high level of complex needs or they are a large sibling group.
- Commenced in October 2015

The Youth Services Program assists youth who are:

- in need of protective intervention as they can no longer live safely at home;
 - transitioning out of foster care to independent housing arrangements; or
 - transitioning home from foster care with transitional supports.
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- Youth who were not in care on their 16th birthday are eligible to receive services up to age 19 if in a high school/equivalency program;
 - Youth who were in care on their 16th birthday are eligible to receive services up to age 21 if in an educational program or rehabilitative program.

- Youth who are eligible for the program sign a voluntary Youth Services agreement to receive support and/or residential services.
- Supportive services include social work support, referrals to community agencies, crisis intervention, and supports to keep youth at home with their family if possible.
- Residential services include monthly financial and supportive services for youth to live independently in the community.

Questions and Wrap up