



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 16<sup>th</sup> birthday are eligible to receive services up to age 19 if in a high school/equivalency program;
  - Youth who were in care on their 16<sup>th</sup> 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**