



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IMPORTANT CHANGES ON THE HORIZON: MANITOBA ADVOCATE TO INTRODUCE SERIOUS INJURY REPORTING PROVISIONS

TREATY 1 TERRITORY AND HOMELAND OF THE RED RIVER MÉTIS, Winnipeg, Man., June 27, 2023 —

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth (MACY) office is pleased to announce that the *Serious Injury Reporting Regulation*, alongside section 21 of *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act (ACYA)*, will be coming into force on July 1, 2023. Together, these two pieces of legislation will require the reporting of serious injuries of children, youth, and young adults who are receiving, or have received within one year prior to the injury, the following reviewable services: child and family services, youth justice, mental health, and addictions systems.

Serious injuries are a major public health issue worldwide and can often lead to lasting physical and/or psychological harm. Section 1 of the ACYA defines a serious injury as an injury that is:

- I. life-threatening;
- II. requires admission to a hospital or other health care facility and is reasonably expected to cause serious or long-term physical or psychological impairment; or
- III. is the result of a sexual assault that causes serious physical harm or is reasonably expected to cause long-term psychological impairment.

“We welcome the implementation of the *Serious Injury Reporting Regulation*,” said Manitoba Advocate Sherry Gott. “Together with section 21 of the ACYA, service providers are now mandated to report the serious injuries of young people to MACY. This not only allows our office to offer immediate support to these individuals and their families, but it also empowers us to gain deeper insight into the overarching challenges faced by youth today.”

Under the regulation, service providers will now be required to report serious injuries to their respective departments through their organization’s reporting form. Pursuant to subsections 21(1) and 21(2) of the ACYA, each department must then provide information about the serious injury to MACY. MACY will then conduct a review to determine whether the serious injury falls within our legislative mandate, and then investigate, if appropriate.

The expanded mandate for investigating and reviewing serious injuries is crucial for enhancing the quality of public services offered to children, youth, and young adults in Manitoba. This new provision will allow MACY to track serious injuries across the province through the first province-wide serious injury database. Through this process, MACY will be able to detect patterns and themes, enabling the office to make informed recommendations to improve public services to protect young people in Manitoba from serious injuries.

If a child, youth, or young adult believes MACY should review their case or injury they can contact MACY toll-free at 1-800-263-7146. MACY will work with the young person to determine the best way to support them. If they are in immediate danger and need emergency assistance, please call 911.

For more information about reporting serious injuries to the Manitoba Advocate office, please visit:
<https://manitobaadvocate.ca/what-we-do/serious-injury-reporting/>

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About Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth:

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth (MACY) is an independent, non-partisan office of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly. It represents the rights, interests, and viewpoints of children, youth, and young adults throughout Manitoba who are receiving or entitled to public services, including child and family, adoption, disability, mental health, addictions, education, victim supports, and youth justice. MACY does this by advocating directly with children and youth, or on their behalf with caregivers and other stakeholders. Advocacy also involves reviewing public services after the death of any young person when that young person or their family was involved with a reviewable service as defined in *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act (ACYA)*. Additionally, MACY is empowered under provincial law to make recommendations to government and other public bodies, conduct child-centred research, disseminate findings, and educate the public on children's rights and any other matter under the ACYA.

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