

REMOVAL OF CHILDREN/FOSTER PARENT APPEALS

For a child in care, the process of moving from one caregiver to another is one that creates multiple disruptions. It can often mean severing meaningful relationships as well as changing schools, communities, and a familiar environment. There are times when a move is necessary and is clearly in the best interests of the child; however, adhering to a clear and fair process in these situations can ease the transition.

If a foster parent objects to the removal of a child, he or she has the right to appeal the decision. The OCA continues to receive requests for advocacy services related to the removal of children from foster placements as it pertains to three areas:

1. Children and youth being moved from the foster home prior to the completion of the foster parent appeal process. This contradicts CFS standards and regulations.
2. Significant delays in the foster parent appeal process.
3. Longer-term placements that originated as *Places of Safety* being excluded from the formal foster parent appeal process.

It is important to note that *Places of Safety* are intended only for short term situations and if children remain for longer than one month, an application to license the home as a foster placement is required (See S.1.4.2 of the Standards manual http://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/cfsmanual/pubs/pdf/1.4.2_enp.pdf). While the Child Protection Branch reports having made efforts to clarify the expectations regarding foster parent appeals for agency staff as well as foster parents, we continue to receive reports about the above concerns on a regular basis.

There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children.

— Nelson Mandela



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PROVISION



PROTECTION

Children and Youth in care have **RIGHTS** that must be protected. These include the right to:

- **CONTACT** the Children's Advocate
- **KNOW** who their social worker is & how to contact them
- **SPEAK** to their social worker on a regular basis
- **KNOW** the agency's care plan and to **ASK** for a written copy
- **BE INVOLVED** in their care plan **AND PARTICIPATE** in the decisions being made about them
- **ATTEND** court hearings and talk to the judge about the plan being made for them if they are over 12
 - Have information about them kept confidential

PARTICIPATION

PRIVACY

WELL DONE IS BETTER THAN WELL SAID.
- BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

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