

## **Child Protection Alerts**

The Child Protection Worker will initiate a Child Protection Alert process when a person or family is missing and a child is or may be in need of protection.

### **REFERENCE**

*Provincial/Territorial Protocol on Children, Youth and Families Moving Between Provinces and Territories, April 1, 2016, Section 7.2*

### **PURPOSE**

- To ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and families.

### **PROCEDURE**

1. Circumstances that may lead to the issuing of an *Interprovincial Child Protection Alert* to another Province or Territory or a *Northwest Territories Child Protection Alert* within the NWT include the following:
  - A family, family member or guardian leaves the Province/Territory or a region of the NWT prior to the conclusion of a child protection investigation;
  - A family, family member or guardian receiving child protection services leaves the Province/Territory or region of the NWT prior to closing the child protection file;
  - A family under court ordered supervision leaves the NWT without approval from the Province/Territory, regional Authority or Court ;
  - A child or youth in care is missing from his or her placement and is believed to have left the Province/Territory or region of the NWT;
  - A high risk pregnant person has or is suspected to have left the NWT or moved to another region of the NWT;
  - A child or youth is taken or has fled to another Province/Territory or another region of the NWT for a variety of reasons, including child trafficking, sexual exploitation, 'honour based' violence or illegal adoption.
2. If the Child Protection Worker is required to issue an Interprovincial Child Protection Alert to other Provinces or Territories, the Child Protection Worker will complete the *Interprovincial Child Protection Alert* form and submit to the Interprovincial Coordinator at the Department. When writing the Interprovincial Child Protection Alert include:
  - The name and birth date of each subject of the Alert;
  - The name, address, email address, telephone number and facsimile of the child welfare organization that issued the Alert and the date sent;
  - If applicable, the name of the interprovincial contact, worker and supervisor

who issued the Alert and how to contact them or their alternates;

- The reason(s) for issuing the Alert including sufficient details of the child protection concerns and risk factors related to the child or youth;
- Possible destinations and other information that may assist a receiving Province/Territory in locating the person or family;
- Specific actions requested of the Province/Territory and, if required, collateral agencies/hospitals in the receiving Province/Territory;
- Known history or risk of violence; and
- Expiry date if less than nine (9) months.

3. Once the *Interprovincial Child Protection Alert* is issued and if any province or territory establishes contact with the child or family, they will investigate according to their policy and legislation and will notify the Child Protection Worker and Supervisor identified as contacts in the *Interprovincial Child Protection Alert*.
4. If the Child Protection Worker requires the issuing of a child protection alert in circumstances where the child or family is believed to not have left the Northwest Territories, complete the *Northwest Territories Child Protection Alert* form with and submit to the Interprovincial Coordinator at the Department for distribution to all Health and Social Services Authorities.

## **FORMS**

- Interprovincial Child Protection Alert
- Northwest Territories Child Protection Alert

## **TOOLS**

- *Provincial/Territorial Protocol on Children, Youth and Families Moving Between Provinces and Territories, April 1, 2016*