

Return of Apprehended Child

The Child Protection Worker must determine within 72 hours after the apprehension of a child, whether the family requires further involvement with Child and Family Services in order to ensure the health and safety of the child.

REFERENCE

NWT Child and Family Services Act, sections 12(1), (2)

PURPOSE

- To ensure the child's health and safety.
- To provide opportunities to identify what services the child and family may access to alleviate the child protection concerns.

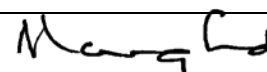
PROCEDURE

1. Discuss with the Supervisor the various options and services available to the family in order to address the child protection concerns.
2. Meet with the parent(s), guardian(s) or the person(s) having actual care of the child at the time of the apprehension as soon as possible following the apprehension to discuss the reason(s) why the child was apprehended and assess the family dynamics.
3. Advise the parent(s), guardian(s) or the person(s) having actual care of the child at the time of the apprehension of support services available to them.
4. Assess the parent(s), guardian(s) or the person(s) having actual care of the child at the time of the apprehension willingness and capacity to address the child protection concerns.
5. Determine the safety risk that would exist if the child is returned to his or her parent(s) and/or the person(s) having actual care of the child at the time of the apprehension. This determination will be based on the outcome of the initial meeting with the family and the consult with the Supervisor.
6. Decide whether the child should be returned within 72 hours after the apprehension or remain in the care of the Director of Child and Family Services.

If the child is returned within 72 hours after the apprehension to his or her parent(s) or the person having actual care of the child at the time of the apprehension, the Child Protection Worker must consider whether to:

Effective Date:
June 1, 2015

Director of Child and Family Services



- close the file if no protection concerns exist and no services are required;
- sign a *Voluntary Services Agreement form* and develop a *Voluntary Services Agreement Case Plan* as outlined in the *Voluntary Support Services Agreements section*, if no protection concerns exist but the child may be at risk if services are not offered to the child and family;
- develop and sign a *Plan of Care Agreement and Case Plan form* as outlined in the *Plan of Care Committee section*, if the child is believed to be in need of protection but is not in immediate danger, therefore can be returned home. This involves ensuring that services are provided to the child and family in order to resolve issues surrounding the protection concerns; or
- obtain a *Supervision Order* as outlined in the *Court section*, if it is believed that the child is in need of protection; however the provision of services can occur while the child living in the home.

If the child is not returned within 72 hours after the apprehension, the Child Protection Worker must proceed to an Apprehension Hearing as outlined in *Apprehension Hearing standard*.

Note:

No child should be returned to a person who does not have lawful custody of the child unless the person had actual care of the child at the time the child was apprehended.

FORMS

- Voluntary Services Agreement
- Voluntary Services Agreement Case Plan
- Plan of Care Agreement and Case Plan

TOOLS

- None

COURT DOCUMENTS

- Supervision Order

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