

Rights of the Child Turning 12 Years Old

The Child Protection Worker must inform the child who turns 12 years old before the Plan of Care Agreement is signed, of his or her right to elect to take the child protection matter to court for a declaration that he or she needs protection.

REFERENCE

NWT Child and Family Services Act section 14(2)

PURPOSE

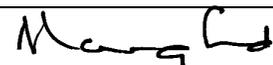
- To ensure children who are 12 years or older are aware of their legal rights.
- To ensure children who are 12 years or older are provided with information that will help them understand the differences between the Plan of Care Committee and Court Process.

PROCEDURE

1. Explain to the child, 12 years of age or older, the options and provide the following Information Sheets:
 - Dealing with Child Protection Matters in Court
 - Plan of Care Agreements
 - Differences Between the Plan of Care Committee and the Court Processes
2. Document the information in the investigation details if the child does not appear to understand the process and discuss with the Supervisor.
3. Provide written notice to the child of his or her decision by completing the *Notification of Right to Elect to Go to Court form*.
4. Complete the *Election to Proceed to Court form* if the child elects to have his or her child protection matter heard before court rather than address it through the Plan of Care Committee process.

Effective Date:
April 1, 2015

Director Child and Family Services



FORMS

- Dealing with Child Protection Matters in Court
- Plan of Care Agreements
- Differences Between the Plan of Care Committee and the Court Processes
- Notification of Right to Elect to Go to Court
- Election to Proceed to Court

TOOLS

- None

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