



- You can speak with a lawyer for advice at any time. If you can't afford a lawyer, contact **Legal Aid**:

Beaufort-Delta.....	977-2260
Dehcho.....	695-2106
Fort Smith.....	872-6568
Hay River and South Slave.....	874-2475
Sahtu.....	598-2762
Tlicho.....	392-6386
Yellowknife.....	920-8009
Main office.....	873-7450

For more information:

Child and Family Services exist to protect and support children in the NWT and to encourage strong, healthy families.

This information is available as an audio recording in the NWT Official Languages at www.hss.gov.nt.ca or by phoning 1-855-297-5155.

Vous pouvez obtenir les présents renseignements sous format audio dans les langues officielles des TNO sur le site www.hss.gov.nt.ca ou en composant le 1-855-297-5155.

Your Child Protection Worker
(attach business card here or fill in)

Name: _____

Office Number: _____

On-Call Number: _____

My child has been apprehended. What now?



What does apprehension mean?

- An apprehension means your child has been removed from your or another parent or guardian’s care.
- A Child Protection Worker (social worker) or an RCMP officer believes your child’s health or safety is at risk or in danger.
- Your child is temporarily in the care of the Director of Child and Family Services until the Court decides otherwise or an agreement is made with the Child Protection Worker.

If you need to, you can ask the Judge for more time to get and meet with a lawyer.

Once the apprehension hearing takes place, the judge will decide whether or not to confirm the apprehension.

If the apprehension is not confirmed, it means your child is not found to be in need of protection and he or she will be returned.

If the apprehension is confirmed, it means your child is found to be in need of protection. Your child will usually remain in the custody of the Director of Child and Family Services until the risk or danger is removed. You and your Child Protection Worker will need to decide whether to enter into a Plan of Care Agreement or go back to Court.

What happens next?

Within 3 days (72 hours)	If there is no ongoing risk or danger found, your child is returned OR If there is an ongoing risk or danger, the Child Protection Worker must make an application to the NWT Court for an Order confirming the apprehension.
Within 4 days	The application for an Apprehension Order must be in Court.
Within 9 days of filing for an Apprehension Order	An Apprehension Hearing must take place.

What should I do?

- Ask any questions that you have – it is your right.
- You can ask for help – from Child and Family Services, from your family, from your friends or from your community.
- If your child is not returned to you within 3 days, you must be provided with information from the Child Protection Worker, including:
 - a copy of the Application for the Apprehension Order:
 - information about how to participate in Court
 - what to expect
 - when Court will be, and
 - other instructions
 - a document listing the facts, called an Affidavit.
- If you do not receive all of this information, ask for it from the Child Protection Worker. You can also ask to have it explained to you.

**YOU HAVE THE RIGHT
TO CONSULT WITH A LAWYER.
IF YOU WANT HELP AT ANY TIME
DURING THE PROCESS CALL LEGAL AID.**