

Updated: November 6, 2020

Tool 10.16.3

INFORMATION ON AN ACT RESPECTING FIRST NATIONS, INUIT AND MÉTIS CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES (FEDERAL ACT)

Notice to Parent and Care Provider prior to taking a Significant Measure

Before taking a significant measure in regard to a child or youth under your care, the Child Protection Worker or Designate (including Authorized Persons, Supervisors or Managers) must notify you.

The reason why notice is provided is to give you an opportunity to share your views before a Child Protection Worker or Designate takes the measure.

Your views matter. Everything you say will be considered before a significant measure is taken.

We believe you should be involved and participate in the decision and planning for the child and youth.

What is a Significant Measure?

A significant measure is an intervention the Child Protection Worker or Designate takes after making a decision based on information gathered to put in place a plan or course of action for a child under your care.

You will be told exactly what significant measure is being considered for the child or youth in your care when you receive notice.

Examples of significant measures can include:

- a court proceeding;
- an apprehension;
- placing a child or youth in an out-of-home living arrangement; or
- placing a child/youth for adoption.

Before any measure is taken, you must be notified unless it is not in the child or youth's best interest. Sometimes, a measure must be taken right away for the safety of the child or youth. If this happens, you will be given notice as soon as possible. We will tell you why we could not wait. Your views are still important, and we want to discuss them with you as soon as possible as we work together to plan for the child or youth.

For more information, please visit www.hss.gov.nt.ca/cfs.

How are you going to give me Notice?

- You will be given a copy of a form that is titled *Notice of Significant measure to Parent, Care Provider, and Indigenous governing body*
- This form tells you what the proposed significant measure is, , and how to get into contact with the Child Protection Worker or Designate.
- You will be given this form in person or by fax, registered mail, or email. Sometimes you might be told about the notice verbally, and the form will follow shortly after.
- This form includes information you need to participate in decisions and planning for the child or youth.

Is anyone else given Notice?

- If there is an Indigenous governing body that has informed us that they are acting on behalf of the Indigenous community to which your child or youth belongs, then they will also be given notice.

What should I do when I receive Notice?

- Contact the Child Protection Worker or Designate if you would like to provide your views. This contact information is on the *Notice of Significant measure to Parent, Care Provider, and Indigenous governing body* form.
- Ask questions—this is your right.
- Let us know what you are concerned about and if you have any suggestions.
- You can ask for help from the Child Protection Worker or Designate, your family, your Indigenous Government, friends, or community members.
- You have the right to access and speak to legal counsel.
- You can ask to have any information or processes explained to you, as well as translated into your language.

If you would like this information in another official language, contact us at 1-855-846-9601.
Si vous voulez ces informations dans une autre langue officielle, téléphonez-nous au 1-855-846-9601.

For more information, please visit www.hss.gov.nt.ca/cfs.