

Legally speaking...

Did you know?

November 2006
Subject: Children

CHILD ABUSE - INVESTIGATION

The Child, Family and Community Service Act is the legislative authority for the Ministry of Children & Family Development's Child Protection Services. Under the Act, the Minister designates the Director of Child Protection, who in turn delegates the provision of child protection services across the province to child protection social workers.

When will a child be taken away from their home?

The Ministry will take a child away from their home and family only if the child's safety and well-being is seriously jeopardized by staying in the home. The focus of the intervention is to find ways to help parents do their job without hurting anyone.

The child protection social worker will determine if the child needs protection. If the social worker determines that a criminal investigation is required then the police will be contacted.

Sometimes the social worker may determine that the most effective action is to refer parents to sources of help. Depending on what is causing the problem behaviour, this could be a support group or counselor, or information about other resources in the community. If the Ministry believes that the home is not safe for the child, the child will be taken into Ministry care. Depending on a court decision, this could be a temporary or permanent action. While in care, the child is placed in a foster home.

What resources are available for children?

Foster homes, group homes, specialized residential care, assessment and temporary care are some of the options available to children.

To make a report of child abuse, contact the following numbers:

Regular Hours:

Report to a child protection social worker in either a Ministry of Children and Family Development office, or a First Nations child welfare agency that provides child protection services.

Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, call your local district office (listed in the blue pages of your phone book).

Emergency & After-Hours Contacts:

The Helpline for Children

To report suspected cases of child abuse or neglect, dial **310-1234 (no area code needed)** from anywhere in B.C.

After-Hours Line

For emergencies outside office hours call 24-hours at:

- Vancouver, the North Shore & Richmond: 604-660-4927
- Lower Mainland from Burnaby & Delta in the west to Maple Ridge and Langley in the east: 604-660-8180
- Rest of the province: 1-800-663-9122



**North Shore
Community Resources**
Connecting You to Community Services!