



Worries of Harm and Danger in Care

Virtually Facilitated In-Service Training

Course Description

This class provides caregivers an understanding of what happens when concerns are brought forward relating to a child or youth in their care. It gives an overview of the typical process, including information gathering, clarification, outcomes, next steps and what does it mean for them as a caregiver. There are a number of practical considerations and strategies that will be provided to help support caregivers through this process. Throughout the training, the focus will be on skill building and enhancing capacity in an effort to support best outcomes for children and youth.

Learning Objectives

At the end of this module, you will:

- Have a better understanding of how and why worries may come forward.
- Understand phases of the assessment process.
- Know what to do when concerns are brought forward.
- Know possible impacts on caregivers and their family.
- Know resources and supports that are available to caregivers.

Key Messages

- Caregiving for Children can be difficult and there can be additional challenges for caring for Children in Care.
- Caregivers are an essential part of the team and should know how and why worries for Children in Care may come forward.
- Knowing the assessment process for provider concerns is important so Caregivers know the process and how to respond.
- There are key impacts on caregivers and their family when concerns are brought forward; have a plan to seek out supports.
- There are supports available to caregivers who are going through this process.

Guided Discussion Questions

1. What are your concerns about the possibility of a potential assessment and how it might impact you and your family/household?
2. What would you like to know about resources and supports available to you if an assessment is a part of your caregiver journey?

Resources

Resource one: Alberta Foster and Kinship Association
303, 9488 – 51 Avenue NW, Edmonton, AB T6E 5A6
(780) 429-9923
Toll Free (within Alberta): 800-667-2372

Resource two: Caregiver Allegation Support Team (CAST)

Link: <https://www.afkaonline.ca/programs/caregiver-allegation-support-team-cast/cast-representatives/>
800-667-2372

Resource three: Community Supports

Link: <https://ab.211.ca/> (connect with resources in your community)
This includes where to go to find a counselor in your community

Resource four: Office of the Child and Youth Advocate

Toll-free: (800) 661-3446
Email: ca.information@OCYA.alberta.ca

Resource five: The A.F.K.A- Additional Supports

Insurance: The AFKA Insurance Rider program is designed to assist kinship and foster caregivers with damage over **\$10,000.00** (per occurrence) that was caused with intent by a child in their care. The caregivers must have insurance under their own homeowners or tenants insurance policy, but their insurer is refusing to pay for the damage. The deductible maximum payable for this plan is \$10,000.00.

*For the purposes of accessing AFKA Programs, a *Kinship Caregiver refers to a kinship caregiver who is an approved placement provider.*

Also, caregivers are required under licensing to have a minimum of \$1,000,000 liability on their homeowners (or tenants) and vehicle insurances. It is a good idea for caregivers to discuss their insurance needs as a caregiver with their insurance agent.

Financial Assistance for Legal Costs: The Alberta Foster and Kinship Association (AFKA) and Children and Family Services have set up an agreement with The Legal Aid Society of Alberta, which entitles all approved caregivers access to legal services when they have been charged with a criminal offence arising out of their duties as a caregiver.

Under this program you have the right to access payment assistance (should you meet eligibility requirements) for legal counsel of up to \$100.00 per hour to a maximum of \$8,000.00 including disbursements.

Resource six: Counselling

You may need to do some searching to find a counsellor that meets your needs. Consideration should be given to any resources you may have available to you such as extended health care coverage, employee assistance programs and community resources. Some resources which may be beneficial include:

- Alberta Health Services
 - Health Link- 811
 - Primary Care Networks- <https://albertafindadoctor.ca/pcn> click on 'Find your PCN'
 - Mental Health Services- a list of services by community is available at:
 - <https://informalberta.ca/public/common/viewSublist.do?cartId=1017152>
- Appeals Secretariat
 - The Appeals Secretariat is a neutral government office that runs separately from Child Intervention.
 - Connect with the Appeals Secretariat:
 - Hours: 8:15 am to 4:30 pm (open Monday to Friday, closed 12 to 1 pm and statutory holidays)
 - Phone: 780-427-2709
 - Toll free: 310-0000 before the phone number (in Alberta)
 - Fax: 780-422-1088
 - Email: css.appealssec-cyfe-ccl@gov.ab.ca
 - Address: 2nd floor, Agronomy Centre 6903 116 Street NW Edmonton, Alberta T6H 5Z2