

# SECTION 72 OF THE CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES ACT STATES

that the public, including professionals who work with children, must promptly report any suspicions that a child is or may be in need of protection to a Children's Aid Society. The Act recognizes that people working closely with children have a particular responsibility to report their suspicions. Any professional or official who fails to report a suspicion is liable on conviction to a fine of up to \$1,000.

"One of the first things I tell families is that we are here to work together to find the resources to help them get on a stable path."



Jodie Barber, Intake Worker

Some common thoughts and feelings when making a call:

This family needs help

I hope my Children's Aid Society can help this family

I feel guilty doing this

Is it the right thing to do?

## MORE THAN 165,000

The average number of referrals that Children's Aid Societies in Ontario receive each year from people concerned about the safety or well-being of a child

**YOUR CALL TO CHILDREN'S AID COULD BE THE MOST IMPORTANT IN A CHILD'S LIFE. . . .**

## HERE'S WHY

*You have seen or heard something that has made you concerned about the safety or well-being of a child*

*The child you are concerned about is under 16*

## FIND YOUR LOCAL CAS

**Akwesasne Child and Family Services**  
<http://www.akwesasne.ca/>  
613.575.2341 x 3139

**Anishinaabe Abinoojii Family Services**  
<http://www.aafs.ca/>  
807.468.6224  
Toll free 866.420.9990

**Children's Aid Society of Algoma Société de l'aide à l'enfance d'Algoma**  
<http://www.algomacas.org/>  
705.949.0162  
Toll free: 888.414.3571

**Brant Family and Children's Services**  
<http://www.casbrant.ca/>  
519.753.8681  
Toll free: 888.753.8681

**Bruce Grey Child and Family Services**  
<http://www.bgcsf.ca/>  
519.371.4453  
Toll free: 855.322.4453

**Chatham-Kent Children's Services Services pour les enfants de Chatham-Kent**  
<http://www.ckcs.on.ca/>  
519.352.0440

**Dilico Anishinabek Family Care**  
<http://www.dilico.com/>  
807.623.8511

**Dufferin Child and Family Services**  
<http://dcafs.on.ca/>  
519.941.1530

**Durham Children's Aid Society**  
<http://www.durhamcas.ca/>  
905.433.1551

**Family and Children's Services of St. Thomas and Elgin County**  
<http://caselgin.on.ca/>  
519.631.1492

**Family and Children's Services of Frontenac, Lennox and Addington**  
<http://www.facsfla.ca/>  
613.545.3227  
Toll free: 855.445.3227

**The Children's Aid Society of Haldimand and Norfolk**  
<http://www.cashn.on.ca/>  
519.587.5437  
Toll free: 888.227.5437

**Halton Children's Aid Society**  
<http://haltoncas.ca/>  
905.333.4441  
Toll free: 866.607.5437

**Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton**  
<http://www.hamiltonccas.on.ca/>  
905.525.2012

**The Children's Aid Society of Hamilton**  
<http://www.hamiltoncas.com/>  
905.522.1121

**Highland Shores Children's Aid**  
<http://highlandshorescas.com/>  
613.962.9291  
Toll free: 800.267.0570

**Huron-Perth Children's Aid Society**  
<http://www.h-pcas.ca/>  
519.271.5290

**Valoris for Children and Adults of Prescott-Russell**  
**Valoris pour enfants et adultes de Prescott-Russell**  
<http://www.valorispr.ca/>  
613.673.5148  
Toll free: 800.675.6168

**Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Aid Society**  
<http://www.khcas.on.ca/>  
705.743.9751  
Toll free: 800.661.2843

**Kenora-Rainy River Districts Child and Family Services**  
<http://www.krrcfs.ca/>  
807.467.5437  
Toll free: 800.465.1100

**Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services**  
<http://www.kgcsf.org/>  
705.859.2100  
Toll free: 800.268.1899

**Kunuwanimano Child & Family Services**  
<http://www.kunuwanimano.com/>  
705.268.9033

**Family and Children's Services of Lanark, Leeds and Grenville**  
<http://www.fcsllg.ca/>  
613.498.2100  
Toll free: 800.481.7834

**Children's Aid Society of London and Middlesex**  
**La Société d'aide à l'enfance de London et du Middlesex**  
<http://www.caslondon.on.ca/>  
519.455.9000  
Toll free: 888.661.6167

**Family and Children's Services Niagara**  
**Les Services à la famille et à l'enfance de Niagara**  
<http://www.facsniagara.on.ca/>  
Toll free: 888.937.7731

**Children's Aid Society of the District of Nipissing and Parry Sound**  
**La Société d'aide à l'enfance pour la région du Nipissing et Parry Sound**  
<http://www.parnipcas.org/>  
705.472.0910  
Toll free: 877.303.0910

**The Children's Aid Society of Ottawa**  
**La Société de l'aide à l'enfance d'Ottawa**  
<http://www.casott.on.ca/>  
613.747.7800

**Children's Aid Society of Oxford County**  
<http://www.casoxford.on.ca/>  
519.539.6176  
Toll free: 800.250.7010

**Payukotayno James and Hudson Bay Family Services**  
<http://www.payukotayno.ca/>  
705.336.2229  
Toll free: 888.298.2916

**Peel Children's Aid**  
<http://www.peelcas.org/>  
905.363.6131  
Toll free: 888.700.0996

**Family and Children's Services of Renfrew County**  
<http://www.fcsrenfrew.on.ca/>  
613.735.6866  
Toll free: 800.267.5878

**Sarnia-Lambton Children's Aid Society**  
<http://www.slcas.on.ca/>  
519.336.0623

**Simcoe Muskoka Child, Youth & Family Services**  
<http://www.simcoecas.com/>  
705.726.6587

**The Children's Aid Society of the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry**  
**La Société d'aide à l'enfance des comtés unis de Stormont, Dundas et Glengarry**  
<http://www.cassdg.ca/>  
613.933.2292  
Toll free: 866.939.9915

**The Children's Aid Society of the Districts of Sudbury and Manitoulin**  
**La Société d'aide à l'enfance des districts de Sudbury et du Manitoulin**  
<http://www.casdsm.on.ca/>  
705.566.3113  
Toll free: 877.272.4334

**The Children's Aid Society of the District of Thunder Bay**  
<https://www.thunderbaycas.ca/>  
807.343.6100  
Toll free: 800.465.3905

**Tikinagan Child and Family Services**  
<http://www.tikinagan.org/>  
807.737.3466  
Toll free: 800.465.3624

**North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services Services à la famille et à l'enfance du Nord-Est de l'Ontario**  
<http://www.neofacs.org/>  
705.360.7100

**Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto**  
**La Société catholique de l'aide à l'enfance ville de Toronto**  
<http://www.torontoccas.org/>  
416.395.1500

**Children's Aid Society of Toronto**  
<http://www.torontocas.ca/>  
416.924.4640

**Jewish Family and Child**  
<http://www.jfandcs.com/>  
416.638.7800

**Native Child and Family Services of Toronto**  
<http://www.nativechild.org/>  
416.969.8510

**Family and Children's Services of the Waterloo Region**  
<https://www.facswaterloo.org/>  
519.576.0540

**Family and Children's Services of Guelph and Wellington County**  
<http://www.fcsgw.org/>  
519.824.2410  
Toll free: 800.265.8300

**Windsor-Essex Children's Aid Society**  
<http://www.wecas.on.ca/>  
519.252.1171  
Toll free: 800.265.5609

**York Region Children's Aid Society**  
<http://www.yorkcas.org/>  
905.895.2318  
Toll free: 800.718.3850

**Weechi-it-te-win Family Services**  
<http://www.weechi.ca/>  
807.274.3201

## CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION

# SPEAK UP FOR KIDS



Ontario Association of  
Children's Aid Societies  
The voice of child welfare in Ontario



# HOW CHILDREN'S AID CAN HELP

*Myth: Children's Aid Societies take children away from their families.*

*Truth: Children's Aid Societies work first and foremost to keep families together.*

**In 2013, children remained at home in 97 percent of all investigations**

— Ontario Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect—2013



## MEET JACKIE, A CHILDREN'S AID WORKER

"I just think, 'How can I help?', and I do it. It's nothing special. If I can help fill the gap by driving a child to daycare and that helps to keep her out of care, then it's worth it."

### A TYPICAL DAY FOR JACKIE INCLUDES:

- ✓ A home visit to check in on a child whose parents are dealing with substance-use issues
- ✓ Referring a family to Alternate Dispute Resolution in an effort to establish stability and permanence for a child
- ✓ Attending a school meeting with a parent to help autistic child access services
- ✓ Arranging for a volunteer mentor for a youth
- ✓ Helping a family connect with housing assistance
- ✓ Taking food vouchers to a family
- ✓ Visiting a family home with high-risk infant nurse to weigh a baby

## WHY CHILDREN'S AID GETS INVOLVED

### REASONS FOR CHILD ABUSE INVESTIGATIONS

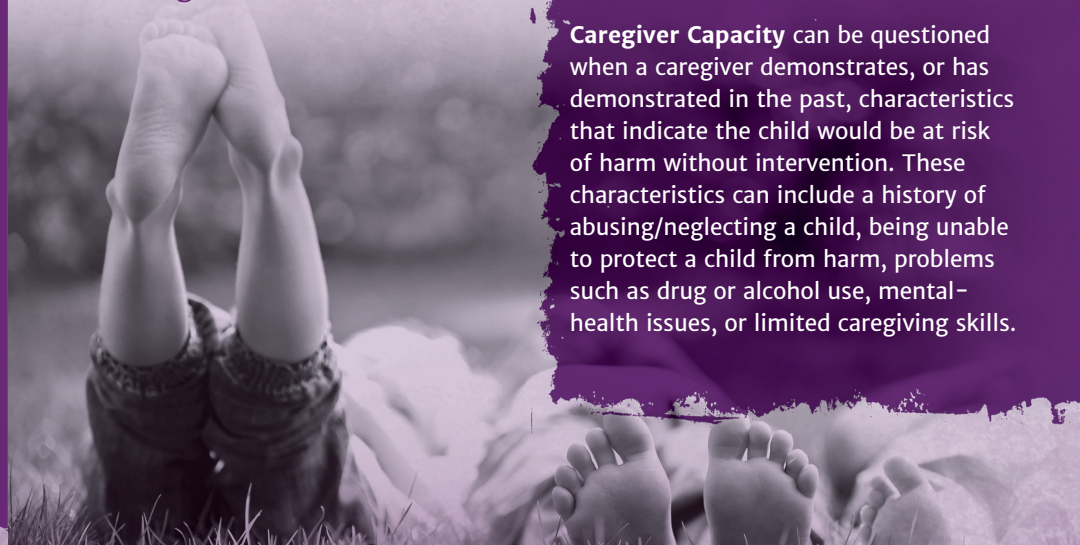
#### NEGLECT

Occurs when a child is harmed, becomes ill, or is at risk of being harmed or becoming ill, due to their caregiver's failure to properly supervise, protect, care, or provide for the child. Situations where the child's need for medical, mental, emotional, or developmental services and treatment are denied by the parent or caregiver are also considered neglect.

#### SEXUAL ABUSE

Occurs when a child has been sexually molested or exploited by their parent or caregiver, or is at risk of being sexually molested or exploited by that person. Situations where a caregiver has knowledge of the child being sexually molested or exploited but fails to protect the child are also considered sexual abuse.

"I was only 8 years old when my stepdad started to abuse me. Children's Aid stepped in, and now I live with my mother and my three other siblings safe and sound."



#### PHYSICAL ABUSE

Occurs when a child suffers physical harm or risk of harm, at the hands of their parent or caregiver (e.g., teacher, babysitter, coach), who has charge of the child. Caregiver negligence, or inability to protect the child from physical harm, or risk of physical harm, are also reasons for possible CAS investigation.

#### EMOTIONAL ABUSE

Occurs when a child is emotionally harmed, or is at risk of being emotionally harmed, due to a caregiver's behaviour including spurning, terrorizing, isolating, threatening the child, withholding affection, and exposing to domestic violence. The emotional impact on the child may result in serious anxiety, depression, withdrawal, self-destructive or aggressive behaviours, or delayed development.

**Exposure to Domestic Violence** occurs when a child is exposed directly or indirectly to physical, sexual, emotional, or psychological harm between current or former intimate partners or spouses. Exposure can include seeing and hearing violent acts, seeing related injuries, and being told about the violence.

**Abandonment/Separation** occurs when a child has been abandoned, a child's parent has died, or a child's parent is unavailable to exercise his or her custodial rights over a child and has not made adequate provision for a child's care and custody. It also occurs when a child is in out-of-home placement and the parent refuses or is unable to resume the child's care and custody.

**Caregiver Capacity** can be questioned when a caregiver demonstrates, or has demonstrated in the past, characteristics that indicate the child would be at risk of harm without intervention. These characteristics can include a history of abusing/neglecting a child, being unable to protect a child from harm, problems such as drug or alcohol use, mental-health issues, or limited caregiving skills.

## THE PROBLEM AND HOW TO RECOGNIZE IT

*Child abuse has many faces, and while all abuse hurts, different kinds of abuse can hurt in different ways.*

You can help a child or a family by recognizing the types of abuse and the signs of abuse. You do not need to be certain to call Children's Aid with a concern.

### SIGNS OF ABUSE

#### NEGLECT

##### Physical Indicators

- » poor hygiene
- » unattended physical or medical needs (e.g. glasses, dental work)
- » consistent lack of supervision

##### Behavioural Indicators

- » pale, listless, unkempt
- » frequent absence from school
- » inappropriate clothing for the weather, dirty clothes
- » frequently does not bring a lunch

#### PHYSICAL ABUSE

##### Physical Indicators

- » injuries that don't fit the explanation
- » presence of several injuries that are at different stages
- » facial injuries in infants and preschool children
- » injuries don't fit with the child's age and developmental stage

##### Behavioural Indicators

- » cannot recall how injuries occurred or offers an explanation that doesn't fit
- » wary of adults
- » may cringe or flinch if touched unexpectedly
- » infants may display a vacant stare
- » extremely aggressive or extremely withdrawn

#### EMOTIONAL ABUSE

##### Physical Indicators

- » bed-wetting that is nonmedical
- » frequent psychosomatic complaints, headaches, nausea, abdominal pains
- » child fails to thrive

##### Behavioural Indicators

- » severe depression
- » extreme withdrawal or aggressiveness
- » overly compliant, too well-mannered, too neat or clean
- » extreme attention seeking
- » displays extreme inhibition in play

#### SEXUAL ABUSE

##### Physical Indicators

- » unusual or excessive itching in the genital or anal area
- » torn, stained, or bloody underwear
- » pregnancy
- » injuries to the genital or anal areas (e.g. bruising, swelling, or infection)
- » sexually transmitted disease

##### Behavioural Indicators

- » age-inappropriate play with toys, self, or others displaying explicit sexual acts
- » age-inappropriate sexually explicit drawing and/or descriptions
- » bizarre, sophisticated, or unusual sexual knowledge
- » seductive behaviours