



FPSS SOCIETY
NOVEMBER 2018

MCFD POLICY UPDATES

November 2018



Important Revisions

Standards for Foster Homes

Foster Family Handbook 5th Edition

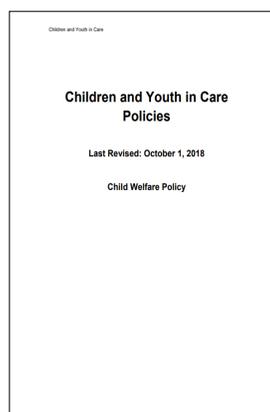
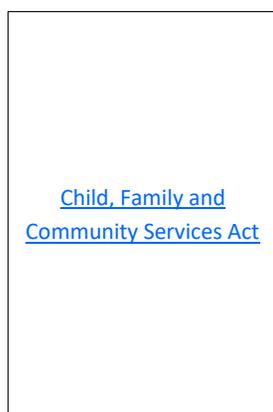
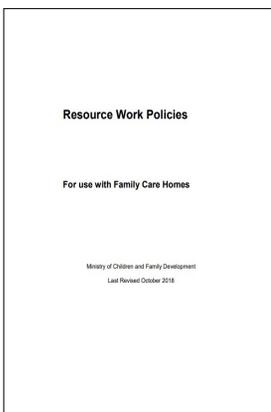
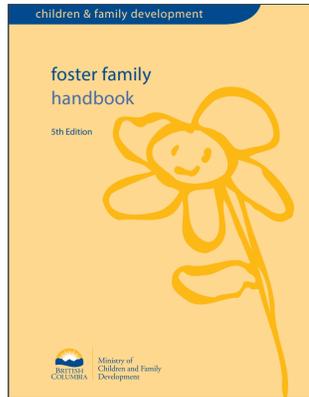
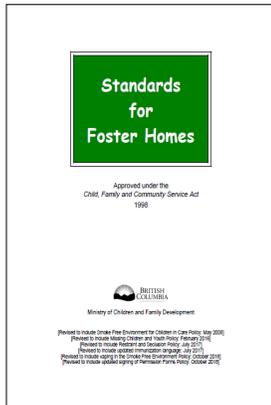
Cannabis Legislation

Social Media Policy for Foster Parents

Resource Work Policies

Child, Family and Community Services Act

Children and Youth in Care Policies



Click on image to go to full document

The Ministry of Children and Family Development has made revisions to key documents that guide foster caregivers responsibilities including

Standards for Foster Homes (October 2018)

<https://fpsss.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Standards-for-Foster-Homes.pdf>

Foster Family Handbook 5th Edition

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/foster-parenting/foster_family_handbook.pdf

Cannabis Legislation (October 2018)

<https://fpsss.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/2018-Cannabis-Legalization-Update.pdf>

Social Media Policy for Foster Parents (June 2018)

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/foster-parenting/foster_parents_social_media_policy.pdf

Resource Work Policies (October 2018)

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/foster-parenting/resource_work_policies.pdf

Child, Family and Community Services Act (Section 70) (July 2018)

http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/96046_01

Children and Youth Care Policies (October 2018)

<https://fpsss.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Child-and-Youth-Care-Policies-Oct-2018.pdf>

It is essential that foster parents familiarize themselves with these revisions. For more information, follow the link to the original document, or contact your Resource Worker or the FPSS Society Local Area Coordinator closest to you.

You can also contact the FPSS Society Regional Office at 1-888-922-8437 or admin@fpsss.com

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Important Revisions to Standards for Foster Homes



[Revised to include Smoke Free Environment for Children in Care Policy: May 2008]

[Revised to include Missing Children and Youth Policy: February 2016]

[Revised to include Restraint and Seclusion Policy: July 2017]

[Revised to include updated Immunization language: July 2017] (See *Children and Youth in Care Policies* Page 18)

[Revised to include vaping in the Smoke Free Environment Policy: October 2018]

[Revised to include updated signing of Permission Forms Policy: October 2018]

Standard B.2 Reportable Incidents

Standard B.2.2 (f)

The caregiver notifies the child's social worker immediately after the occurrence of any of the following reportable incidents in order that the child's social worker can plan for the ongoing safety and well-being of the child.

...situations when a child or youth is missing, including subsequent information obtained about the child or youth during their absence (see Appendix 1 for the definition of Missing Child/Youth and revised procedural requirements)

Appendix 1 (Revised)

Definition of Missing Child/Youth: any child or youth in care including respite care, whose whereabouts are unknown **and** there are additional concerns about the safety of the child or youth.

Standard B.3 Use of Physical Restraint

Children live in a home where physical restraint is used only in extraordinary circumstance to protect the child or others from immediate physical harm when

- Less restrictive means have been considered or attempted and determined to be insufficient in the circumstances; or
- As an extraordinary measure approved of by 'a designated director' and outlined in the child or youth individual care plan; and
- Where restrained is allowed in the child or youth's care plan, restraint is performed by caregivers or service providers trained in crisis intervention, including the safe use of restraints.

Definitions (Revised)

Seclusion:

As one of the prohibited behaviour management practices, seclusion or confinement is described as "containment of a child/youth within any space from which they are not able to exit without the permission of another or within which their movements may be restricted." This does not include the behavioural management approach of periods of "time out," where a child/youth exercises a degree of cooperation and self-control.

STANDARD D.4 Social and Recreational Activities (Revised)

Children are encouraged to participate in appropriate and available social and recreational activities according to their abilities and interests. These include school-related activities such as field trips, swimming lessons, and other outings.

STANDARD D.4.5 (New!)

The caregiver signs required permission forms allowing the child or youth to participate in routine school activities, including forms that contain waivers and indemnities, **unless the activity is considered to be a high risk activity or potentially inappropriate** for the particular child or youth or the caregiver has concerns about signing the form. Examples of high risk activities include, but are not limited to:

- scuba diving,
- snowmobiling and
- mountain climbing.

STANDARD D.6 Health

Health The health of children is actively promoted.

UPDATED DEFINITION:

Smoke Free Environment: Smoking does not take place at any time in enclosed spaces where children in care would be exposed to second-hand smoke or the residual toxins from second-hand smoke or the smoke or vapors from cigarettes, e-cigarettes and vaping This includes a foster parent's residence and vehicle. This does not restrict spiritual activities relating to the use of tobacco.

STANDARD D.6.5 (Revised)

Children confirm that they live in a smoke-free environment. Smoke-free includes smoke or vapors from cigarettes, e-cigarettes and vaping.

STANDARD D.6.14 (Revised)

The caregiver provides a smoke free environment. Smoke-free includes smoke or vapors from cigarettes, e-cigarettes and vaping.

Appendix 4 Social and Recreational Activities for Children and Youth in Care: Signing Permission Forms (New!)

Research has shown that hobbies, sports activities and other recreational and social activities are important in promoting skills and interests that enhance the child/youth's cognitive, social and physical development, and can lead to a sense of accomplishment and competence. Social and recreational activities can include lessons, clubs, camps, hobbies, sports, artistic pursuits and activities organized by a school, club, association, or a geographical, cultural or religious community.

Children and youth in care have the right under Section 70 of the CFCSA to participate in social and recreational activities if available and appropriate and according to their abilities and interests.

Signing Permission Forms for routine school activities:

Note: *Guardianship workers are no longer required to send Indemnity forms to the Risk Management Branch of the Ministry of Finance for approval.*

Caregivers sign required permission forms allowing the child/youth to participate in routine school activities, including forms that include waivers and indemnities, **unless**

- the activity is considered to be a high risk activity (see information below),
- the activity is potentially inappropriate for the particular child/youth, and/or
- the caregiver has concerns about signing a form.

If the caregiver does not sign a required permission form to permit a child to participate in routine school activities, the caregiver must bring the form to the attention of the child's/youth's guardianship worker as soon as possible so that they can determine whether to sign the form prior to the activity taking place.

Note: *Caregivers are insured against liability under the Master Insurance Program, and section 101 of the Child, Family and Community Service Act that states that no person, including foster parents, are personally liable for anything done or omitted in good faith in exercising a duty or function under the Act.*

- Parental consent may be needed for a child or youth in care under a Voluntary Care Agreement or a Special Needs Agreement depending upon the terms of the Agreement.
- Parental consent respecting a child or youth in care under an Interim or Temporary Custody Order may be needed if the Provincial Court has ordered, as permitted under s. 47(3) of the CFCSA, that the parent retains the ability to make necessary decisions about the child's education and religious upbringing (This is an unusual circumstance.)
- Guardianship workers advise caregivers of situations when parental consent is required.

Continued...

See table below for a summary of who has authority to sign permission forms:

LEGAL STATUS	ROUTINE SCHOOL, SOCIAL/RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES	HIGH RISK ACTIVITIES
In care by agreement (VCA, SNA)	Caregiver (unless parent retains this responsibility under the agreement)	Guardianship worker (unless parent retains this responsibility under the agreement)
Removal	Caregiver	Guardianship worker, but should involve parent wherever possible
Interim and Temporary Custody of the Director (TCO)	Caregiver	Guardianship worker
Continuing Custody of the Director (CCO)	Caregiver	Guardianship worker
Out of Care order or agreement (EFP)	Out-of-care care provider	Out-of-care care provider

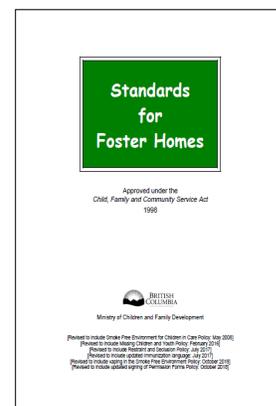
Before signing permission forms, including waivers and indemnities, caregivers and guardianship workers consider:

- The level of risk of the activity;
- Congruency with the child/youth’s care plan;
- The child’s or youth’s views, ability to participate and interest in the activity;
- The quality and nature of the supervision;
- Whether the activity will help support the positive development of the child/youth’s cultural identity;
- How the activity fits in with other scheduled activities and daily routines in the child/youth’s life;
- Whether the activity may interfere with family relationships and contact with family members with the child or youth;
- Transportation requirements to and from the activity and the ability of the caregiver to meet those requirements, if required;
- The cost of the activity and availability of funding;
- Recommendations for safety relating to each sport or activity the child/youth participates in including:
 - ◊Canada Safety Council recommendations on a variety of sporting and leisure activities;
 - ◊RCMP requirements in Firearm Users Younger than 18; and
 - ◊Provincial information on Off-Road Vehicle Safety.
- If the child or youth has the necessary equipment to safeguard against accidents or injuries.

*See Children and Youth in Care (October 1st 2018)

Important Revisions to Standards for Foster Homes (October 2018)

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/foster-parenting/standards_foster_homes.pdf



Important Revisions to *Foster Family Handbook 5th Edition*



Smoke and Vapor Free Environment (Revised)

B.C. introduced a smoke and vapor free policy for foster homes to help ensure the health of children and young people in government care. A smoke and vapor free environment means no smoking or vaping (including but not limited to tobacco, cannabis, and e-substances) in the home or vehicle at any time – and this applies to every person living in or visiting the home. The ministry recognizes that many foster parents are already mindful of the harmful effects of second-hand smoke and vapor and prohibit smoking and vaping in their homes and vehicles. The policy does not restrict spiritual or cultural activities relating to the use of tobacco.

Missing Children and Youth Policy and Procedures (Revised)

Definition of Missing Child/Youth: any child or youth in care, in a non-permanent out-of-care placement including respite care, or under a Youth Agreement whose whereabouts are unknown and there are additional concerns about the safety of the child or youth.

Responding when a Child/Youth's whereabouts are unknown and there are no additional concerns about the Child/Youth's safety

When a child or youth is unreasonably late coming home the caregiver/care provider will take the same actions as a prudent and responsible parent would including trying first to locate the child or youth prior to contacting the social worker/Centralized Screening, or Police/RCMP.

Actions taken by a prudent and responsible parent in an effort to locate a child or youth include, but are not limited to the following

- actively trying to contact the child/youth directly via their cell phone, etc.
- actively seeking out and contacting anyone, such as friends, coaches, or teachers of the child/youth, who may know the child/youth's current or recent whereabouts; and
- identifying and checking likely locations where the child/youth may be.

Responding when a child/youth's whereabouts are unknown and there are additional concerns about the child/youth's safety The following factors are considered when determining if the child/youth is unsafe:

- vulnerability (e.g., due to: age or level of development, physical or cognitive disability, addictions or mental health concerns or involvement in high risk activities);
- the mental or emotional state of the missing child/youth (e.g., emotionally distraught, suicidal or likely to cause harm to self or others);
- extreme weather (no coat, boots, etc.) or other physical conditions (e.g., terrain);
- any suspicious or dangerous circumstances surrounding the child/youth's disappearance, which suggest the child/youth may be the victim of a crime;
- it is out of character for the child/youth to be missing;
- there is reason to believe that the child/youth may have been involved in an accident or mishap;
- the whereabouts of the child/youth have been unknown to the caregiver/care provider overnight.

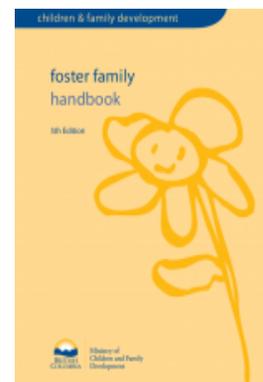
If the child or youth's whereabouts are unknown and there are additional concerns about their safety, he or she is considered to be Missing and the caregiver/care provider, the child/youth's social worker or Centralized Screening will immediately call the Police/RCMP to report a missing child/youth in order for the police to take action to locate the missing child or youth.

If it is the caregiver/care provider who has called the Police/RCMP, he or she will also inform the child/youth's social worker or Centralized Screening that Police/RCMP have been called regarding the missing child/youth and that action to locate the child/youth was requested. The child/youth's social worker makes a Reportable Circumstance Report.

See more in

Foster Family Handbook 5th Edition

<https://fpsss.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Foster-Family-Handbook-Fifth-Edition.pdf>



Important Revisions to Cannabis Legislation



You may be aware that non-medical cannabis became legal across Canada as of October 17, 2018. The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) has drafted/amended policy in consideration of the health and safety of the children and youth in our care and to align with the Province's new cannabis legislation.

Quick Facts on Legalization of Cannabis (New)

- The minimum age to possess, purchase, grow and consume cannabis in B.C. is 19 years old.
- Adults 19+ will be able to purchase non-medical cannabis through privately run retail stores or government-operated retail stores and online sales.
- Adults 19+ may possess up to 30 grams of non-medical cannabis in a public place.
- Those under 19 years will be prohibited from possessing any amount of non-medical cannabis; however, under federal law, youth aged 12 to 18 would not face criminal prosecution for possessing small amounts of cannabis (up to 5 grams).
- Adults 19+ can generally smoke or vape cannabis in public spaces where tobacco smoking and vaping are allowed. There is a ban on smoking or vaping cannabis in parks, playgrounds, and other public areas commonly used by children. MCFD prohibits smoking and vaping cannabis within enclosed physical environments where children or youth are in care, including in vehicles.
- Drug-impaired driving will continue to be illegal. B.C. will toughen provincial regulations to give police more tools to remove drug-impaired drivers from the road and to deter drug-impaired driving.
- B.C. will allow adults 19+ to grow up to four cannabis plants per household, as long as those plants are not visible from public spaces off the property. Landlords and strata councils will be able to restrict or prohibit home cultivation.

MCFD Policy on Cannabis Cultivation

Foster Caregivers and Prospective Adoptive Families

Foster caregivers, out-of-care care providers, sub-contracted family care home caregivers and prospective adoptive families are permitted to grow cannabis under the new provincial cannabis legislation. Care providers who wish to cultivate cannabis will need to do so safely and align with the provincial limits for home cultivation (up to four plants). The Ministry of Children and Family Development also retains the ability to do a case-by-case assessment and to restrict the presence of cannabis in a home based on the particular needs of the child/youth in care.

Contracted Residential Care

B.C. cannabis legislation states that an adult must not grow non-medical cannabis in a home unless the adult ordinarily resides in the home. Caregivers employed by a staffed residential resource rotate through their shifts and maintain a residence elsewhere when they are away from work. Therefore, cannabis must not be cultivated in a staffed residential resource since it is the home in which the caregiver is employed and not their personal place of residence.

Edibles

Edible cannabis products are not legally available to purchase in B.C. at this time. It is anticipated that federal legislation regarding edibles will be available a year after legalization of non-medical cannabis. The Ministry of Children and Family Development recognizes that edibles may pose a risk to children and youth given that food items made with cannabis (i.e. baked goods; candy) are often indistinguishable from non-cannabis based food products.

Cannabis and cannabis products are treated like alcohol and tobacco in terms of guarding against access and use by children/youth in care. If caregivers choose to make their own edible cannabis products, then the products must be safely and securely stored in a manner that is inaccessible to children/youth in the home.

Cannabis Legalization

<https://fpss.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/2018-Cannabis-Legalization-Update.pdf>

For more information, please visit

BC Provincial Government: www.getcannabisclarity.ca

Government of Canada: <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/health/campaigns/legalizing-strictly-regulating-cannabis-facts.html>

Foundry (Resources): <https://foundrybc.ca/resource/cannabis/>

For general information on the use of Cannabis in BC, go to <https://cannabis.gov.bc.ca/>. You will find resources on a number of topics.

Get Cannabis Clarity	
What's Legal?	There are strict laws and regulations around the legalization of non-medical cannabis. Before you buy, use, or grow your own non-medical cannabis, learn more about what's legal and what's not. Medical cannabis is within the responsibility of Health Canada. To find out more, go to Health Canada .
Health Information	Cannabis can be used for medical or non-medical purposes. People may choose to use cannabis for its therapeutic effects. But it can also harm your health. Cannabis affects everyone differently.
Growing at Home	Growing cannabis plants at home is legal. Adults 19+ can grow up to four non-medical cannabis plants per household. These plants cannot be grown in a space that is visible from a public place, like parks, streets, sidewalks, sports fields, and K-12 school properties. For example, you can grow plants on your balcony, or in your yard, as long as they're not visible from a public place.
Travel	There are strict rules and regulations around travelling with cannabis. Before you leave the province or country, get informed.
Legislation	<p>With public health and safety top of mind, the Province has passed legislation to provide legal, controlled access to non-medical cannabis in British Columbia:</p> <p>The Cannabis Control and Licensing Act aims to protect children and youth, promote health and safety, keep the criminal element out of cannabis, keep B.C.'s roads safe, and support socially responsible economic development.</p> <p>The Cannabis Distribution Act establishes a public wholesale distribution monopoly, and public (government-run) retail sales, both in stores and online.</p> <p>Recent changes to the Motor Vehicle Act will give police more tools to remove drug-impaired drivers from the road and deter drug-affected driving.</p>
What is Cannabis?	Cannabis is also known as marijuana, pot, or weed. There are two main types of cannabis plant: sativa and indica. The cannabis plant contains a number of chemical compounds called cannabinoids that may affect the brain and other parts of the body's nervous system. Parts of the cannabis plant that may be consumed include the leaves, flowers, and buds. Cannabis can be consumed in a number of ways, including can be smoked, vaporized, applied to the skin, cooked in food, or brewed into tea. Cannabis can be used for medical and non-medical purposes.
Safe Kids	There are strict laws in place to protect children. You must be 19 years or older to buy, consume (through smoking, vaping and all other forms of consumption), possess or grow non-medical cannabis. Early and regular cannabis use is associated with higher risks of dependency and health problems.

Important Revisions to *Social Media Policy for Foster Parents*



Foster parents are required to comply with this policy in accordance with the Family Care Home Agreement, Child, Family and Community Service Act, and Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. If you have any questions regarding this policy please contact: MCF.PrivacyImpactAssessment@gov.bc.ca

Definitions:

In this guide:

“Child-in-Care” or “Child” means a child who is in the custody, care or guardianship of a director.

“Social Media” includes and is not limited to any social media platform including: Facebook, Messenger, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, Messenger Apps etc.

Preamble:

Thanks to technology it is easy to share our ideas, opinions, pictures and videos with people through various Social Media platforms. Social Media has become significant in how individuals are communicating and connecting with their peers, however it does not come without privacy and safety concerns.

This guide is intended to support foster parents in understanding their obligations around their use of Social Media in relation to a Child-in-Care. It also provides tips to help foster parents ensure safe use of Social Media by a Child-in-Care.

Use of Social Media by Foster Parents (New)

While foster parents may have personal Social Media accounts they should **never use these accounts to communicate confidential, sensitive or personal information about a Child-in-Care**. Disclosing confidential, sensitive or personal information could put the Child at risk of harm.

It is important that the Child-in-Care feels they are part of the family and foster parents are encouraged to take photos and document family events such as barbecues, special occasion celebrations, vacations, etc. These photos and documents are special memories that will form part of the Child’s Lifebook but foster parents must be thoughtful about how and what information is shared on Social Media. Social Media lacks the level of security necessary to ensure ongoing protection of information even with the strictest of security settings on user profiles.

A foster parent may post photos and material on Social Media but **a foster parent must:**

- Respect the wishes of the Child if they indicate they do not want certain photos or videos of themselves to be shared on Social Media.
- Not post any material that would reveal the Child’s status (current or past) as a Child-in-care.
- Only use a Child’s first name.
- Not tag a Child in photos or materials including those posted by others.
- Not post pictures or other material that would reveal a location where a Child is regularly present (e.g. school name/location, foster home address etc.)
- Not use Social Media to communicate with a Child’s parents or birth family.

A Child-in-Care is not obligated to add (e.g. Facebook friend) foster parents on their Social Media accounts. If a Child chooses to add a foster parent to their Social Media account(s) then **the foster parent must ensure the Child’s privacy is protected** as it relates to their status as a Child-in-Care. A Child-in-Care is not obligated to provide foster parents with their user names or passwords for Social Media accounts however if they choose to share this information then it is important to keep this information confidential and secure.

Use of Social Media by a Child-in-Care:

Use of Social Media is not recommended for a Child under 13 years of age.

In knowing the possible risks of using Social Media, it is tempting to forbid use of these platforms. Access to the internet, computers and mobile devices has become so easily accessible that preventing use of Social Media is not only unrealistic but can be perceived as detrimental to children in building social relationships with their peers. Social Media can be an important outlet for expressing and shaping identity for children but it is important that children are provided with guidance and boundaries about safe use of Social Media.

It is important to educate a Child-in-Care about digital safety, engaging with them on what they are doing online, and empowering them to be

safe. A Child should be familiar with:

- How to set security and privacy on their accounts.
- Confidentiality: the implications of posting photos and videos on Social Media.
 - ◊ Remember the internet never forgets!
- Safety: never add/talk/meet with unknown people on Social Media.
- Anonymity: people aren't always who they say they are.
- Risks: cyberbullying, predatory behaviour, not posting personal information.

Foster parents must ensure that computers accessed by a Child are placed in a central location, such as the kitchen or living room, and they **monitor computer use including the amount of time spent on the computer**. A Child-in-Care is entitled to reasonable privacy so it is important to balance monitoring of the computer, or mobile device use with the Child's right to privacy. The Child's age, capacity, and living arrangements may be factors to consider in determining what is reasonable monitoring or time spent on computer or mobile devices. If you are unsure or have any questions please discuss this with the Child's social worker.

If you have reason to suspect a Child-in-Care is engaging in on-line activity that puts them at risk report this immediately to the Child's social worker.

Twitter: <https://support.twitter.com/articles/49309# 3>

Privacy Settings: Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/help/325807937506242>

Twitter: <https://support.twitter.com/articles/18368>

Instagram: <http://help.instagram.com/116024195217477>

YouTube: <https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/157177?co=GENIE.Platform%3DDesktop&hl=en 4>

CFCSA Section 70: http://www.bclaws.ca/Recon/document/ID/freeside/00_96046_01#section70

Resources:

Foster Family Handbook: <https://fpss.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Foster-Family-Handbook-Fifth-Edition.pdf>

Popular App Guide for Parents and Teachers: <https://smartsocial.com/app-guide-parents-teachers>

www.mediasmarts.ca includes information and guides for children and parents including:

- Social Networking <http://mediasmarts.ca/digital-media-literacy/general-information/internet-mobile/social-networking>
- Cyberbullying <http://mediasmarts.ca/digital-media-literacy/digital-issues/cyberbullying>
- Excessive Internet Use <http://mediasmarts.ca/digital-media-literacy/digital-issues/excessive-internet-use>
- Online Ethics <http://mediasmarts.ca/digital-media-literacy/digital-issues/online-ethics>
- Privacy <http://mediasmarts.ca/digital-media-literacy/digital-issues/privacy>
- Sexual Exploitation <http://mediasmarts.ca/digital-media-literacy/digital-issues/sexual-exploitation>

<http://www.cyberwise.org/> includes information on internet safety, security, privacy, cyberbullying etc. (USA)

What is a Lifebook: <http://fpss.com/services-programs/lifebooks/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/help/124970597582337/>

Instagram: <https://help.instagram.com/627963287377328>

See also: <https://www.thewhitehatter.ca/> (Vancouver Island based resource)



Important Revisions to Resource Work Policies

Chapter 8: Resource Work Policies (Revised)

Policy 8.1 Recruitment, Screening, Assessment and Approval

Effective Date of Policy: March 1, 2017

Amendment Date of Policy: October 16, 2018

Assessment

Caregiver Requirements

[Caregiver] Accepts and supports the practice of providing a smoke and vapor free environment. Smoke and vapor free environment includes but is not limited to tobacco, cannabis and e-substances (Page 7)

Chapter 8: Resource Work Policies (Revised)

Policy 8.2 Assessment and Approval of Restricted Caregivers

Effective Date of Policy: March 1, 2017

Amendment Date of Policy: October 16, 2018

Procedures

[Caregiver] Accepts and supports the practice of providing a smoke and vapor free environment. Smoke and vapor free environment includes but is not limited to tobacco, cannabis and e-substances (Page 12)

Chapter 8: Resource Work Policies (Revised)

Policy 8.16 Relief, Respite and Child Care

Effective Date of Policy: March 1, 2017

Amendment Date of Policy: August 31 2017

On-going child care

Child care subsidies and, on a case by case basis, surcharges may be available through the resource worker or child's worker to assist with the cost of child care if child care is required to supplement the care provided by a caregiver or if child care is recommended by the child's worker. (Page 57)

Glossary (Revised)

Smoke and vapor free environment: neither smoking nor vaping takes place at any time in enclosed spaces where children in care would be exposed to second-hand smoke/vapor or the residual toxins from second-hand smoke/vapor (including but not limited to tobacco, cannabis, and e-substances). This includes a foster caregiver's residence and vehicle. This does not restrict spiritual activities relating to the use of tobacco. (Page 94)

Chapter 8: Resource Work Policies (Revised)

Policy 8.20 Family Care Home Investigations

Effective Date of Policy: March 1, 2017

Amendment Date of Policy: March 28, 2018

Procedures—Coordination

Added the word "responsible" to several sentences in this section. Other revisions to language were made to improve clarity.

Chapter 8: Resource Work Policies (New)

Policy 8.23 Cannabis in a Family Care Home

Effective Date of Policy: October 17, 2018

Amendment Date of Policy:

Policy Statement:

A child/youth is safe in a family care home where adults aged 19 years and older make, keep, consume, or cultivate cannabis and cannabis products.

Outcomes

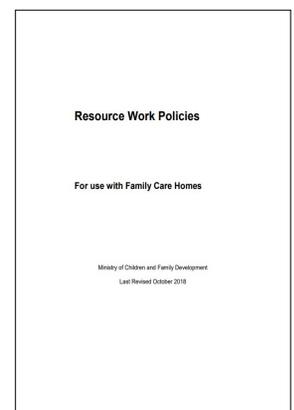
- A child/youth does not have access to cannabis plants and products (including but not limited to cannabis in the form of fresh or dried leaf, oil, food, and drinks) in a family care home.
- Caregivers, who make, keep, consume, or cultivate cannabis or cannabis products in a family care home do so in a safe manner.
- Caregivers in a family care home are compliant with the federal, provincial and local government rules on cannabis cultivation.

Standard 8.23

- (1) Cannabis plants and products are stored in such a way that they are inaccessible to a child/youth in a family care home. Needs and capabilities of the child/youth are considered when assessing the safety of a family care home and accessibility to cannabis plants and products (including but not limited to cannabis in the form of fresh or dried leaf, oil, food, and drinks).
- (2) No more than four cannabis plants are grown in a family care home.

Resource Work Policies (October 2018)

<https://fpss.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Resource-Work-Policies-October-2018.pdf>



Important Revisions to *Child, Family and Community Services Act*



Child, Family, and Community Service Act (Revised)

Section 70

Rights of children in care

70

- 1) Children in care have the following rights:
 - a) to be fed, clothed and nurtured according to community standards and to be given the same quality of care as other children in the placement;
 - b) to be informed about their plans of care;
 - c) to be consulted and to express their views, according to their abilities, about significant decisions affecting them;
 - d) to reasonable privacy and to possession of their personal belongings;
 - e) to be free from corporal punishment;
 - f) **(Revised)** to be informed of the standard of behaviour expected by their caregivers or prospective adoptive parents and of the consequences of not meeting the expectations of their caregivers or prospective adoptive parents, as applicable;
 - g) to receive medical and dental care when required;
 - h) to participate in social and recreational activities if available and appropriate and according to their abilities and interests;
 - i) to receive the religious instruction and to participate in the religious activities of their choice;
 - j) to receive guidance and encouragement to maintain their cultural heritage;
 - k) to be provided with an interpreter if language or disability is a barrier to consulting with them on decisions affecting their custody or care;
 - l) to privacy during discussions with members of their families, subject to subsection (2);
 - m) **(Revised)**; to privacy during discussions with a lawyer, the representative or a person employed or retained by the representative under the [Representative for Children and Youth Act](#), the Ombudsperson, a member of the Legislative Assembly or a member of Parliament
 - n) **(Revised)**; to be informed about and to be assisted in contacting the representative under the [Representative for Children and Youth Act](#), or the Ombudsperson
 - o) **(Revised)**, to be informed of their rights, and the procedures available for enforcing their rights under
 - (i) this Act, or
 - (ii) the [Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act](#).
- (2) A child who is removed under Part 3 is entitled to exercise the right in subsection (1) (l), subject to any court order made after the court has had an opportunity to consider the question of access to the child.
- (3) **(Revised)** This section, except with respect to the Representative for Children and Youth as set out in subsection (1) (m) and (n), does not apply to a child who is in a place of confinement.

Child, Family and Community Services Act (Section 70) (July2018)

http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/96046_01

Please be advised that the Rights of the Child (*Section 70 of the Child, Family and Community Services Act*) found in the *Foster Family Handbook, Standards for Foster Homes, and Resource Work Policies* are not the current version. The Rights of the Child included in this document is the current and correct version as of October 24, 2018.

See the site below for current act:

Child, Family and Community Services Act (Section 70) (July2018)
http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/96046_01

Important Revisions to Children and Youth in Care Policies



Chapter 5: Children and Youth in Care

Policy 5.1 Establishing and preserving the Cultural Identity of Indigenous Children and Youth in Care

Effective Date of Policy: June 30, 2017

Amendment Date of Policy: October 1, 2018

Standards 5.1 (1) Include cultural planning in the Care Plan of each Indigenous child or youth in care.

Registering for or Obtaining Membership with Métis Organizations

To determine eligibility and application procedures for registering or seeking membership in Métis organizations contact the organization(s) that represents the child/youth's Métis community, which may include:

- Métis Nation of British Columbia;
- Métis Commission; and/or
- Métis organizations and communities outside BC.

Obtaining Membership with Inuit Regions

(including Inuvialuit, Nunatsiavut, Nunavik and Nunavut)

When there are questions about whether a child/youth is from one of the four Inuit regions, including Inuvialuit, Nunatsiavut, Nunavik and Nunavut, explore their potential Inuit heritage by consulting the:

- Child/youth;
- Parent(s);
- Extended family;
- Relevant cultural organizations in the appropriate region; and
- Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, which represents Inuit Nunangat (including the four regions above).

Chapter 5: Children and Youth in Care

Policy 5.6 Assessment and Planning for Child/Youth in Care

Effective Date of Policy: June 30, 2017

Amendment Date of Policy: October 1, 2018

Standards 5.6(1) Within 30 days of the child/youth coming into care, develop an Interim Care Plan.

Standards 5.6(2) Within 6 months of the child/youth coming into care, develop a written Care Plan.

Standards 5.6(3) Review the child/youth's Care Plan at minimum every 6 months or more frequently if circumstances arise that make a review necessary.

Chapter 5: Children and Youth in Care

Policy 5.7 Putting the Care Plan into Action

Effective Date of Policy: June 30, 2017

Amendment Date of Policy: October 1, 2018

Standards 5.7 (1) Complete each domain of the child/youth's Care Plan

Decision Making About Immunization

Children/youth in care receive regular immunizations using the basic schedule and record of immunization that is included in the Health Care Passport.

Note: In accordance with Sections 47 or 50 of the CFCSA, a director generally has authority to consent to immunizations of a child/youth in the director's custody. An exception is where, respecting a child/youth subject to the temporary custody of the director, a court has specifically ordered that a parent retains the ability to consent to health care for a child/youth. Under Section 94 of the CFCSA, a director may authorize a caregiver to carry out any of the director's rights and responsibilities – including the ability to consent to such health care for a child/youth as standard immunizations. If no custody order under the CFCSA has yet been granted but the child/youth has been removed from the family home, the director may consent to necessary health care for the child/youth only if, in the opinion of a health care provider, the health care should be provided without delay. When a child/youth is in care by agreement, their parent normally retains the right to consent to health care, including immunizations. An important caveat to all of this is that, under Section 17 of the Infants Act, an older child/youth may have the legal right to consent, or not, to their own health care, including immunizations.

Social/Recreational Activities

See Revisions for Standards for Foster Homes for clarification around caregivers signing permission slips including indemnities and waivers.

Hunting by non-Indigenous children:

Children/youth in care must be 14 years old to hunt. Before a child/youth in care is allowed to participate in hunting activities, the child/youth's mental, emotional and behavioural capabilities must be fully assessed by the guardianship worker.

Written approval to participate in hunting must be received from the child/youth's guardianship worker before permission is given. ☐ Children in care by agreement or in temporary custody must have written permission from their guardians to hunt, while those in continuing custody must have their guardianship worker's approval.

Note: In British Columbia, individuals must be over 19 to apply for a licence to own a firearm. Youth in care who hunt generally use firearms owned by a foster parent or lent by a parent. All firearms and ammunition in a foster home must be securely stored according to the rules of the firearms acquisition permit and in accordance with Standard E.2.21 of the Standards for Foster Homes.

Indigenous right to harvest fish and game:

Hunting and/or fishing for sustenance supports traditional diets and is considered a key aspect of many Indigenous cultures. In connecting an Indigenous child/youth in care with their culture, a guardianship worker may support the child/youth's engagement in hunting or hunting-related activities if the guardianship worker determines that the Indigenous child/youth in care will be safe while participating in a hunt.

Before providing consent for an Indigenous child/youth to go hunting, the child/youth's guardianship worker confirms that:

- The child/youth will be under the close supervision of a responsible person who is exercising their inherent Indigenous right to harvest fish and game for traditional, ceremonial and food purposes or who holds a valid hunting or firearms license;
- The child/youth expresses an interest in participating in the hunt; and
- The child/youth's level of participation in the hunt is based on their abilities, understanding of the cultural relevance, and competencies related to safety.

Chapter 5: Children and Youth in Care

Policy 5.11 Supporting Transition Planning for Youth in Care with Special Needs

Effective Date of Policy: October 1, 2018

Amendment Date of Policy:

Standard 5.11(1) Transition planning is initiated for youth who are 14 years of age by incorporating transition goals and services into the youth's plan of care.

Standard 5.11(2) Required information and documentation for Community Living BC (CLBC) eligibility determination are provided after the youth's 16th birthday and no later than six months after the youth's 17th birthday

Children and Youth Care Policies (October 2018)

<https://fpsss.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Child-and-Youth-Care-Policies-Oct-2018.pdf>

