

- F. any plans for the child's care, including care in accordance with the customs or traditions of the Indigenous group, community or people to which the child belongs;
- G. any family violence and its impact on the child, including whether the child is directly or indirectly exposed to the family violence as well as the physical, emotional and psychological harm or risk of harm to the child; and
- H. any civil or criminal proceeding, order, condition, or measure that is relevant to the safety, security and well-being of the child.

Placement Priority of Children

- A. with one of the child's parents;
- B. with another adult member of the child's family;
- C. with an adult who belongs to the same Indigenous group, community or people as the child;
- D. with an adult who belongs to an Indigenous group, community or people other than the one to which the child belongs; or
- E. with any other adult.

What can I do if I am unhappy with the services my family is receiving?

1. Talk to your CFS worker if you have any concerns or questions.
2. If you and your CFS worker can't fix the issue, ask to speak to the CFS supervisor.
3. If you, your CFS worker, and the supervisor can't resolve the problem, you may contact the agency's Director of Service.
4. If you have used all avenues within the agency structure, you may then contact the Southern First Nations Network of Care (SFNNC). You may contact the SFNNC by email at intake@southernnetwork.org or by phone at (204) 783-9190.

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Animikii Ozoson CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES

Parents' Bill of Rights in Relation to Child and Family Services

Animikii Ozoson CFS (AOCFS) serves children and families living in Winnipeg, Manitoba who have ties to the First Nations of Ontario or who choose to receive services from our agency. The Parent's Bill of Rights are required to be upheld as standard practice, where parents are to be legally informed of their rights by agency workers to promote and ensure positive outcomes for families and children when becoming involved with the Child Welfare system. To ensure prevention, intervention and postvention are being considered at all levels when receiving culturally appropriate services under Bill C-92. The focus is to consider the best interest of the child and family.

What is Bill C-92?

Bill C-92: *An Act Representing First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, Youth and families* affirms the rights and jurisdiction of Indigenous peoples in relation to child and family services and sets out principles applicable, on a national level, to the provision of child and family services in relation to Indigenous children, such as the best interests of the child, cultural continuity and substantive equality.

This Act was in force as of January 1, 2020, and the National Standards apply in all provinces as of that date.

The National Standards focus on:

- Prioritizing prevention and early intervention over apprehension whenever possible;
- Maintaining and promoting Indigenous children's relationships with family, community and territory;
- Valuing and promoting culture, including community, language and territory; and
- Reunifying Indigenous children, families and communities whenever possible.

The National Standards have Preventative & Placement Provisions

- CFS must give priority to preventative and prenatal care, this also includes preventative and placement planning when needed.
- Children must not be apprehended just based on poverty or care provider health.
- CFS must make reasonable efforts to keep children in their parents or family member's home and demonstrate how they did so.

Notice

- In the context of providing child and family services in relation to an Indigenous child, to the extent that doing so is consistent with the best interests of the child, before taking any significant measure in relation to the child, the service provider must provide notice of the measure to the child's parent and the care provider, as well as to the Indigenous Governing Body that acts on behalf of the Indigenous group, community or people to which the child belongs and that has informed the service provider that they are acting on behalf of that Indigenous group, community or people.

What is considered a significant measure?

Significant Measure include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Apprehension
- Critical Incident
- Court Proceeding (Child Welfare)
- Media Report of Missing Child/Youth
- Removal from Foster Home/Place of Safety
- Request for Change of Agency and/or Authority of Services
- Return of Child(ren) to Family
- Voluntary Placement Agreement

Manitoba Southern Chiefs' Organization Parents' Bill of Rights

1. **To identify a safe person to care for your children.**
2. **To bring in your own supports when meeting with Child and Family Services.**
3. **To receive services focused on early intervention and prevention of apprehension.**
4. **To receive culturally appropriate services and resources.**
5. **To receive help and resources to support family preservations, as long as there are no immediate risks to the safety of your children.**
6. **To attend court proceedings regarding your child(ren) and to provide input to the judge.**
7. **To provide input into your case plan and receive notification prior to significant action.**

Best Interests of Children

The best interests of the child must be a primary consideration in the making of decisions or the taking of actions in the context of the provision of child and family services in relation to an Indigenous child and, in the case of decisions or actions related to child apprehension, the best interests of the child must be the paramount consideration.

Primary consideration must be given to the child's physical, emotional and psychological safety, security and well-being, as well as to the importance, for that child, of having an ongoing relationship with his or her family and with the Indigenous group, community or people to which he or she belongs and of preserving the child's connections to his or her culture.

To determine the best interests of an Indigenous child, all factors related to the circumstances of the child must be considered, including:

- A. the child's cultural, linguistic, religious and spiritual upbringing and heritage;
- B. the child's needs, given the child's age and stage of development, such as the child's need for stability;
- C. the nature and strength of the child's relationship with his or her parent, the care provider and any member of his or her family who plays an important role in his or her life;
- D. the importance to the child of preserving the child's cultural identity and connections to the language and territory of the Indigenous group, community or people to which the child belongs;
- E. the child's views and preferences, giving due weight to the child's age and maturity, unless they cannot be ascertained;