

# The Department of Social Development

Child Protection Services

Foster Families

Family Supports for Children with Disabilities



# What We Will Cover

- What is Child Protection?
- What is Child Abuse and Neglect?
- What happens when a Child Protection referral is made?
- Making a child protection referral.
- What are foster families?
  
- Overview of the Family Supports for Children with Disabilities program.

# What is Child Protection Services?

- It is a response to allegations of child abuse and neglect.
- It is to ensure that the child victim and other children will be protected from further harm.
- It is to ensure that the victim receives appropriate support.

# Who Is Responsible?

- The basic responsibility for the care and protection of children rests with the PARENTS or caregivers.
- When parents fail to meet this responsibility SOCIAL WORKERS under the mandate of Social Development and under the authority of the *Family Services Act* are delegated to carry out the protection of children.

# What is Child Abuse & Neglect?

- CHILD ABUSE can include:
  - Sexual Abuse
  - Physical Abuse
  - Physical Neglect
  - Emotional Maltreatment
  - Exposure to Intimate Partner Violence

# SEXUAL ABUSE

Sexual Abuse is any sexual act involving a CHILD and...

- A parent
- A caretaker
- Any person in a position of trust
- Or any other person

# PHYSICAL ABUSE

Physical Abuse is any action resulting in NON ACCIDENTAL physical injuries or harm.

This includes:

- Excessive physical discipline
- Severe beatings
- Burns
- Broken bones
- Internal injuries
- Bruises and or welts

# PHYSICAL NEGLECT

Physical neglect is an ACT of OMMISSION by the parent or caretaker.

This includes failure to provide basic needs such as:

- Shelter
- Food
- Clothing
- Health
- Hygiene
- Safety



# EMOTIONAL MALTREATMENT

There are 2 types of emotional maltreatment:

1. **EMOTIONAL ABUSE:** This includes rejection, criticism and excessive demands of performance.
2. **EMOTIONAL NEGLECT:** This refers to the failure of a parent to provide psychological nurturance. This also includes children who are exposed to/witness family violence.

# INTIMATE PARTNER/DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Intimate partner violence is not necessarily a single physical attack or threat.

It is a pattern of behavior meant to exert power and control.

Intimate partner violence includes but is not limited to physical, psychological, verbal, financial, sexual and spiritual violence as well as threats of the same to themselves, children, pets and other loved ones.

# INTIMATE PARTNER/DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

EXPOSURE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE refers to when a child is living in a situation where there is domestic violence.

This includes:

- Seeing
- Hearing
- Being aware

... of violence perpetrated by one parent against another parent

# INTIMATE PARTNER/DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Children do not need to be physically present to witness the abuse

They may be victims by hearing the parents or by being aware of the abuse by seeing the results (bruises/injuries to a parent, behavior of the parents, damage to the home etc.)

WHEN A CHILD PROTECTION  
REFERRAL IS MADE

**INTAKE SOCIAL WORKER**  
-Referrals from the community  
-Calls, letters, walk-ins

**Situation Closed**  
-No Investigation  
-Not Enough Information

**Situation Sent for Investigation**  
Priority of Response:  
Level 1 (Immediately/24 hours)  
Level 2 (4 days)  
Level 3 (12 days)

**Investigation  
Closed**

**Open Child  
Protection Case**

# MAKING A REFERRAL

Section 30 (1) of the *Family Services Act* states that **ANY PERSON** who has information causing him to **SUSPECT** that a child has been abandoned, deserted, physically or emotionally neglected, physically or sexually ill-treated or otherwise abused **SHALL** inform the Department of Social Development of the situation without delay.

# Foster Care in New Brunswick

- A foster family is a temporary family placement for a child who cannot remain with his or her own family due to abuse or neglect.
- The foster family works together with the child's social worker to provide care and support to the child while working to reunite the family.
- Social Development is always looking for supportive families who are interested in fostering children to apply to become a foster family.



# Family Supports for Children with Disabilities

- Voluntary program that assists families raising children with disabilities.
- Program is available to families raising a child who:
  - Has a disability or a lifelong physical, sensory, cognitive or neurological condition that significantly impairs their ability to participate in activities of daily living.
  - Is under the age of 19.
  - Is a resident of New Brunswick.
  - Has a valid New Brunswick Medicare Card.
  - Has at least one written letter of support from a professional explaining the nature of their disability.

# Family Supports for Children with Disabilities

- Families eligible for the program work together with a social worker to develop a Family Support Plan.
- Examples of service options may include:
  - Social worker support services.
  - Relief care.
  - Child care services (12-18 years).
  - Therapeutically based recreational programs.
  - Family counselling.
  - Assistance to access medical services.
  - Health card.
  - Medical equipment.
  - Special dietary foods.

# CONTACT INFORMATION

Fredericton Region (Child Protection, information for Foster Families, FSCD)

(Monday-Friday, 8:30AM-4:30PM; excluding Holidays):

1-866-444-8838

After Hours Child Protection Emergencies (holidays, weekends, Monday-Friday evenings 4:30PM-8:30PM):

1-800-442-9799