



The Children's Aid Society
La Société d'aide à l'enfance
Sudbury & Manitoulin

Caring for Children and Youth Is a Community Responsibility

We are here to help. The Children's Aid Society of the Districts of Sudbury and Manitoulin (CASDSM) works with parents, caregivers, and the community to help children and youth grow up safe and supported. Whenever safely possible, our goal is to keep children with their families. We provide protection and support through services that are inclusive, culturally respectful, and responsive to each family's needs.

Our Service Teams Include:

- Intake and Family Connections
- After-Hours Services
- Intimate Partner Violence
- Community Engagement and Advocacy
- Resources (Foster Parent recruitment and support)
- Investigation and Ongoing Family Service
- Child and Youth Services
- Family Support and Kinship Services

Duty to Report: Everyone Has a Role to Play

Under Ontario's Child, Youth and Family Services Act (CYFSA), anyone who has reason to believe a child or youth may need protection is legally required to report it to a Children's Aid Society.

This includes professionals, community members, and neighbours. You must make the call yourself. Even if you're unsure, call. Reporting helps keep children and youth safe and connects families with support.

In emergencies: If a child or youth needs help right away due to injury or danger, call 911.

What Makes Us Unique?

Always Here: Our After-Hours Team responds to emergency calls 365 days a year, ensuring no family in crisis is left without support.

Community-First: We work with partners to keep children connected to family, culture, and community.

Prevention-Focused: We offer proactive support to help families thrive.

Bilingual Services: Available in both English and French.

Signs a Child or Youth May Be at Risk

We investigate concerns involving:

- **Neglect:** Ongoing failure to meet a child's basic needs (food, medical care, supervision).
- **Physical Harm:** Deliberate or unexplained injuries such as bruises, burns, or signs of violence.
- **Sexual Abuse:** Any sexual behaviour or exploitation involving a child.
- **Emotional Harm:** Patterns of shaming, blaming, or belittling.
- **IPV & Human Trafficking:** Exposure to abuse between caregivers is emotional harm under the CYFSA. Exploitation or exposure to human trafficking is also cause for protection.



What Happens When You Call?

You'll talk to a child protection worker who will ask some basic questions, such as:

- What are your concerns?
- What is the child's name, age, and where do they live?
- Who else lives in the home?
- Is the family getting any help or support already?
- What is the child's culture, identity, or language?

Depending on the situation, we may:

- Give advice or connect the family to local services
- Start an investigation to see what help is needed
- Work with the police, hospitals, or community agencies
- Each call is reviewed based on urgency, safety, and the needs of the child or youth

Some Frequently Asked Questions:

Q What is my legal responsibility if I suspect a child or youth is being harmed?

A Under the CYFSA, everyone has a legal duty to report concerns that a child or youth may be in need of protection. You must call us directly - even if you're unsure.

Q Can someone else report on my behalf?

A No. The law requires that you make the call yourself. A supervisor, colleague, or friend cannot call for you.

Q When should I call Children's Aid?

A Call any time you think a child or youth may be experiencing abuse, neglect, emotional harm, family violence, or exploitation, including human trafficking.

Q What happens after I call?

A You'll talk to a child protection worker who will ask about your concerns and some basic questions. Each call is reviewed individually. We may offer support, connect the family to services, or investigate, depending on the situation.

Q Will the family know I made the report?

A Your identity is kept private and is only shared if required in a court hearing.

Q Is poverty considered neglect?

A No. Poverty alone is not neglect. Neglect means a child or youth's needs are not being met because their caregiver is unable to provide, or isn't providing, proper care.

Q How do I know if a child or youth is at risk?

A Signs can include unexplained or suspicious injuries, a pattern of chronic neglect, fear of going home, references to violence in the home or police attendance at the home. If something doesn't feel right, it's better to call.

Working Together

Keeping children and youth safe is a shared responsibility - thank you for being part of the solution. Together, we can:

- Help families before there's a crisis
- Build stronger, healthier communities
- Create a safe future for children and youth

Let's Stay Connected.

Children's Aid Society of the Districts of Sudbury and Manitoulin

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Address: 303 York Street, Sudbury, ON



Follow us on social media for updates!

www.casdsm.on.ca | <https://Lnk.bio/casdsm>

