

ABOUT CARRIER SEKANI FAMILY SERVICES

Carrier Sekani Family Services is a branch society of the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council incorporated as a non-profit society in 1990. With its own board of directors, constitution, and by-laws, it provides health, child & family, and legal services to its 11 member Carrier and Sekani Nations residing in urban and rural areas of North-Central British Columbia.

The Child & Family Services department provides:

- ◆ Social workers that protect First Nations children in care and are guided by the *Child, Family & Community Services Act* and the *Aboriginal Operational & Practice Standards & Indicators*
- ◆ Caregivers that provide a safe home to Carrier & Sekani children in need
- ◆ Support and information for families in need
- ◆ Coordinating connections with children/youth with their families and communities
- ◆ Works with families through Child/Youth with Special Needs Agreements or Voluntary Care Agreements



ON-RESERVE VOLUNTARY FAMILY SERVICES

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Phone: 250-562-3591
Toll Free: 1-800-889-6855
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Guardianship Services

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Prince George, BC
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Vanderhoof

Guardianship, Resources & Voluntary Family Services

PO Box 1219
240 West Stewart Street
Vanderhoof, BC
VOJ 3A0
Phone: 250-567-2900
Toll Free: 1-866-567-2333
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Burns Lake

Guardianship, Resources & Voluntary Family Services

PO Box 1475
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Burns Lake, BC
VOJ 1E0
Phone: 250-692-1800
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Please contact your nearest CSFS office if you have any questions for the Guardianship, Resources or Voluntary Family Services staff

www.csfs.org

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Creating wellness together.



CARRIER SEKANI
FAMILY SERVICES

ON-RESERVE VOLUNTARY FAMILY SERVICES

CSFS social workers can provide voluntary family services when they get requests within the delegated authority for families living on-reserve. Such services may include assistance with referrals to community services, voluntary care agreements, special needs agreements, or youth agreements. Services offered are based on the needs of the child and family, and are the least disruptive services available. The services should build on the strengths and capacities of the family, extended family, and community.

A Voluntary Care Agreement is put in place when a parent needs help looking after their child for a set amount of time. The parent keeps as much of their parental authority as possible, giving only limited authority to the child's social worker. Voluntary Care Agreements are temporary; the goal is to reunite the family as soon as possible.



Why Would A Child be in Voluntary Care?

There are many reasons why children come into care. Some children are in care through voluntary agreements because their parents or guardians are experiencing difficulties. The parents may ask for temporary help because of illness, marital problems, or parent/child conflicts. It is important to remember that this service is voluntary and the parents maintain the guardianship rights of their child.

What is a Special Needs Agreement?

If your child has been diagnosed with a permanent or long-term physical or developmental disability or has been identified as at risk for developmental delay and the child's needs have become too much for the family to cope with, your child and family may be able to receive extra assistance. A Special Needs Agreement is put in place when a parent needs help caring for their child; the child is placed in a care for a set amount of time. Special Needs Agreements are temporary; the goal is to reunite the family as soon as possible.

Children entering the service must meet the eligibility requirements of the service. Usually a physician or other qualified professional will assess the needs and skill level of your child and determine whether your child has an eligible disability; a CSFS social worker can help you with this process and discuss options for your child and family. The child's needs might be:

- ◆ Emotional
- ◆ Behavioural
- ◆ Mental
- ◆ Physical



It is important to remember that this service is voluntary and the parents maintain the guardianship rights of their child.

Who are Children with Special Needs?

They are children between 0-19 years of age who need much more educational, medical/health, social, and environmental support than other children in general, to improve their health, development, learning, quality of life and community activity levels.



What is a Youth Agreement?

A legal agreement made between a 16-18 year old youth and MCFD or CSFS. The agreement is made to help the youth gain independence, return to school and/or gain work experience, and life skills. The youth must not be able to live with family due to safety reasons and has no other parent or person willing to be responsible for them.

The youth works with the social worker to write out the agreement; the agreement will say what the responsibilities of the youth are to continue living independently.

What is the Role of the Social Worker?

The Social Worker is responsible for acting in the best interest of a child to ensure that the child's individual physical, intellectual, emotional, and spiritual needs are met and that their rights are maintained. When a child is in voluntary services the Social Worker must keep the parent informed about their child's progress and must include the parent in making decision's for their child.

For Youth Agreements, the social worker monitors the youth, usually through monthly meetings, to make sure the youth is:

- ◆ Staying safe & making healthy choices
- ◆ Free of abuse, neglect or harm
- ◆ Culturally supported
- ◆ Cooking and eating healthfully
- ◆ Given guidance by a trusted adult
- ◆ Meeting their responsibilities