

Ministry of Education

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Ministère de l'Éducation

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Queen's Park
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Memorandum to: Directors of Education

From: Denise Dwyer
Assistant Deputy Minister
Indigenous Education and Well-Being Division

Denys Giguère
Assistant Deputy Minister
French Language Teaching, Learning and Achievement
Division

Date: January 8, 2019

Subject PPM 9: Reporting of Children in Need of Protection -
Revision

Please find attached the revised Policy/Program Memorandum (PPM) No. 9: Reporting of Children in Need of Protection. Effective immediately, this PPM will replace the version dated August 10, 2001.

The [Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017](#) came into force on April 30, 2018. [Part X](#) will come into force in January 2020. The legislation puts children and youth at the centre of decision-making, and supports more accountable, responsive and accessible child, youth and family services. It also strengthens oversight for children's aid societies and licensed residential services.

PPM 9 has been updated to reflect the *Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017* (CYFSA). This PPM summarizes the responsibilities of school boards with respect to the duty to report suspected abuses or neglect of children under the CYFSA. The PPM can be accessed via: <http://edu.gov.on.ca/extra/eng/ppm/ppm.html>

Child Welfare

We all share a responsibility to protect children from harm. Anyone who has reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is or may be in need of protection must promptly report the suspicion and the information upon which it is based to a children's aid society

(society). A “child in need of protection” includes a child who is, or may be, suffering from physical, sexual and emotional abuse, neglect, and risk of harm.

It is not necessary for you to be certain a child is or may be in need of protection to make a report to a society. “Reasonable grounds” refers to the information that an average person, using unbiased and honest judgment, would need in order to decide to report.

The duty to report applies to any child who is, or appears to be, under the age of 16 years old. On January 1, 2018, Ontario raised the age of protection from 16 to 18. A professional, or member of the public who is concerned that a 16 or 17 year-old is, or may be in need of protection may, but is not required to, make a report to a society and the society is required to assess the reported information.

To promote the safety and well-being of students, the Ministry of Education expects all school boards to work with local societies to develop and implement annual training for board staff concerning their duty to report under the CYFSA. In addition, boards are expected to conduct a regular review of policies and procedures pertaining to the duty to report under the CYFSA and any other obligations to report.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the safety and well-being of all Ontario’s students.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by

Denise Dwyer
Assistant Deputy Minister

Original Signed by

Denys Giguère
Assistant Deputy Minister

Attachment