

Family Services

Counseling, guidance and other support services are provided in response to self referrals and to those who are referred by concerns and complaints from the community. Planning with a family often involves the coordination of many services and resources. This service is offered on a twenty-four hour basis.

Child Abuse

Our Agency undertakes child abuse investigations in cooperation with the police. All cases are monitored by a multidisciplinary Child Abuse Committee.

Single Expectant Parent Service

Single expectant parents face many special problems. It is our job to provide the needed help.

In the case of a teenage mother, needed help will be provided to her in developing a suitable plan for her care during and after the baby's birth. Provincial law requires that our Agency make at least one contact with teenage parents to ensure that there is a safe plan for both birth mother and baby.

Should the birth mother decide to parent her baby, we will see that she has help learning how to cope with this very important job.

Although our primary service is to the expectant mother, we also expect to involve the birth father.

Care

When it is necessary for children to live away from their home we usually place them in foster care or group care.

Some children will have a short stay and will return home. Others will leave our care only after they have been prepared to live on their own as young adults.

A variety of CFS Western staff work together to try to pinpoint problems and identify the best way to help a child.

Adoption

It is our responsibility to find an appropriate adoptive family for each child who needs a permanent home.

We also offer post-adoption services. In a number of ways, we can help adopted adults and their birth parents find each other when this is their mutual wish.

Right Of Appeal

As a client of Child and Family Services you have the right to appeal decisions that are made concerning you and your family.

- If your concern is about the kind of service you are receiving, you are invited to discuss the matter with your social worker. If this is unsatisfactory or not possible you may contact the worker's supervisor. Either the worker or our receptionist will be pleased to tell you which supervisor to contact. Most situations can be sorted out this way.
- If the matter can't be settled this way, the supervisor will let you know what else you can do.
- If your concern is about a matter that is before the court you have the right to consult a lawyer.

How to reach us

Our main office

General office hours are Mondays through Fridays, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Emergency services are available 24-hours-7-days-a-week through the 1-800 number listed below.

800 McTavish Avenue, Brandon MB R7A 7L4

Telephone..... 204-726-6030 or

Toll free in MB 1-800-483-8980

Fax..... 204-726-6775

Email info@cfswestern.mb.ca

Website..... www.cfswestern.mb.ca

Strengthening families and protecting children since 1899

Client information...



**CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES
OF WESTERN MANITOBA**

We exist so that children are safe and nurtured in strong, loving families within a community of caring people



At *Child and Family Services of Western Manitoba*, our goals are to:

Strengthen and support families

Protect children from neglect, abuse and exploitation

Ensure children in our care are parented appropriately

Work in partnership with the community

Be a recognized leader in the advancement of health and well-being of children and families in Westman

More than 2,000 children and their families are helped by Child and Family Services of Western Manitoba (CFS Western) each year.

Let's Talk

CFS Western offers counselling to families who turn to us for help. Most families we work with welcome our help.

Sometimes, we have to investigate families when we suspect that something may be seriously wrong. Why? Because not only is it our interest to protect children from abuse and neglect, it is the law.

The job of protection has been given to us by the Provincial Government under the Child and Family Services Act.

Sometimes, this means removing children from their home to a place of safety. As soon as the child is removed, we are already at work trying to help reunite the family as soon as it is safe.

Our preferred choice is to work with and strengthen the family so that children can safely stay with their own families in their own home.

Programs which strengthen families are available within the area served by CFS Western

Family Strengthening Through Family Support

Our programs are designed to help families become stronger and healthier. Building stronger families is our way of preventing children from coming into care.

Elsbeth Reid Family Resource Centre

Our Family Resource Centre is located at 255—9th Street in Brandon. The coffee pot is always on and the door is open weekdays to rural as well as city families. Call us at 204-726-6280. If we don't have what you are looking for, let us know and we will see what we can do.

Here are a few of the services we offer:

Parenting courses—child development courses—cooking courses—sewing courses—peer support groups—child care—"the store".

In-Home Support Programs

Homemakers—Family Aides—Family Support Workers

These services are available for in-home support for families. Homemakers care for children in their homes when parents are unable to do so. Family Aides model parenting skills and life skills, as well as act as advocates for families in need of these services. Family Support Workers assist all members of a family to resolve parent/child conflict by promoting communication and by teaching appropriate behaviours and parenting skills. The goal of these programs is to strengthen families and to prevent the need for children coming into care.

Parent-Child Home Program

This program is to help strengthen the relationship between the mother and child and to aid the mother in helping her child to learn. A trained volunteer works for two years with one family whose children are between 18 and 36 months.

Preschool Enrichment Program

This is a nursery program for children who, because of special needs, require particular attention and encouragement.

Victoria Day Care Centre

This day care provides care for children while parents are working or studying and for children who have special needs, and for children whose parents wish to enrol them for added enrichment.

Summer Programs

Each summer we send about 500 children from south-western Manitoba to camps. A variety of camping experiences are chosen to match the individual needs of the children. The camping experience serves a twofold purpose—it allows parents a break while providing children who come from disadvantaged situations recreation with their peers in a camp setting. The Sun Fund for Kids funds this program.

Volunteer Services

We have many volunteers who play a vital role in the help we are able to offer.

Our volunteers are special friends, tutors, drivers, babysitters, family supporters, youth group leaders, class instructors or individuals whose talents are adapted to special situations.

Above all, they are caring, concerned people who work with children and/or their families.

