

Office of the Child and Youth Advocate Quarterly Report: January 1 to March 31, 2010

Children and Youth Services Response

Report on Child and Family Services Authorities (CFSAs) and Delegated First Nation Agencies (DFNAs)

The tables below include information about how cases where mandatory notifications (MNs) were made to the Advocate were addressed by CFSAs and DFNAs. CFSAs and DFNAs are required by Ministry policy to inform the Advocate whenever:

- A child or youth is alleged to have suffered physical, emotional, or sexual abuse while in provincial government care.
- A child or youth receiving services, or a significant person in their life, disagrees with the services planned for a child or youth in care.
- It is felt that the viewpoint or interests of a child or youth in care are not being considered or the rights of a child or youth in care are not being respected.

The Ministry response section of the table shows the number of such incidents reported to the Advocate and whether they were founded or unfounded, based on the facts discovered when the incident was investigated.

When an allegation is verified, the first priority of the Ministry is to take immediate steps to ensure the safety and well-being of the child or youth in care. The nature of these steps varies, depending on the unique circumstances of each case and can include:

- The permanent closure of a foster home or kinship care home, or the discipline of group home staff, up to and including dismissal. Incidents that are criminal in nature are referred to the appropriate police authorities.
- A requirement that foster parents or kinship caregivers receive additional training before being able to care for children or youth in their home again. In some cases, a child or youth in care may remain with the foster parent or kinship caregiver, provided the safety and well-being of the young person can be assured.
- The need for foster parents or kinship caregivers to take additional steps to ensure the continued safety and well-being of children and youth in their care, such as making sure third parties who have placed the safety and well-being of the young person at risk are barred access to the child or youth.
- The Ministry providing additional supports and services to the foster parent or kinship caregiver and increasing monitoring activities.
- Forwarding verified cases of abuse to the Ministry Legal Services Branch for referral to the Office of the Public Trustee.

Report on Child and Family Services Authorities

CFSA	Concern Reported	Ministry Response
Southwest Alberta CFSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MNs involving seven children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review of the information determined that none of the MNs regarding the seven children were related to abuse in care.
Southeast Alberta CFSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MNs involving 11 children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review of the information determined that MNs for four children were not related to abuse in care. • Allegations regarding abuse in care involving two children were unsubstantiated. • Allegations regarding abuse in care involving five children were substantiated and addressed to the satisfaction of the Advocate. The substantiated abuse in care resulted from two incidents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prospective adoptive parents physically abused the child they were planning to adopt. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Child was moved from the home and the adoption process terminated. ○ A situation where a sibling group of four was living in the same kinship home. One sibling sexually abused her two younger siblings. Further investigation found quality of care and supervision concerns.

CFSA	Concern Reported	Ministry Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All four siblings were removed from the kinship home and placed in foster care. The kinship home was closed. ▪ Counselling supports were provided to the siblings involved in the abuse.
<p>Calgary and Area CFSA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MNs involving 107 children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review of the information determined that MNs regarding seven children were not related to abuse in care. • Allegations regarding abuse in care involving 77 children were unsubstantiated. • Allegations regarding abuse in care involving three children are still under assessment. • Allegations regarding abuse in care involving 20 children were substantiated and addressed to the satisfaction of the Advocate. The substantiated abuse resulted from 10 incidents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Disclosure by an adult former foster child that he was sexually abused by his former foster father. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All current foster children were removed from the home and the home was closed. ▪ Police have laid charges and the matter is awaiting trial. ○ Physical abuse by a foster parent on two foster children. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Children were moved from the foster home and the foster home was closed. ▪ Matter was referred to police. ○ Inappropriate discipline techniques used by a foster parent on three foster children. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Additional training about appropriate forms of discipline was provided. ○ Emotional injury and neglect of a group of four foster children by the foster parents. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Additional training and support was provided to the foster parents. ▪ The licence for the home was changed to allow for a maximum of two foster children in the home. ○ Emotional injury of two foster children by their foster parents. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Counselling supports and additional training were provided to the foster parents. ○ Group home staff member became intoxicated and was subsequently arrested while on a recreational outing with four group home residents (Three residents from Calgary CFSA and one from North Peace Tribal Council DFNA). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The CFSA followed up with the residential facility to review and strengthen policies and procedures around outings. ▪ The group home staff member was terminated from the group home. ▪ Monitoring of the residential facility to strengthen reporting policies is continuing. <p>*Note: This is the same incident as reported in the response to MNs involving the North Peace Tribal Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Physical injury of a child in a group home resulting from dangerous horseplay between two children in care. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The child causing the physical injury was arrested by the police. ▪ Supervision expectations were reviewed with the residential facility. ▪ A staff member from the residential facility was terminated. ○ Inappropriate supervision by a foster parent resulted in one foster child sustaining an injury by way of ingesting improperly stored medication. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Injured child has been moved from the home.

CFSA	Concern Reported	Ministry Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth in care concerned about being unable to secure an Enhancement Agreement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety planning ensured the safety of the other child in the home. Procedures to keep foster children safe were reviewed with the foster parents along with policy regarding the safe storage of medicine. Emotional injury of one foster youth by another foster youth in the same home. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The foster care support worker has addressed the safety and supervision concerns and the reasons why the youth was feeling unsafe have been addressed. The youth who was emotionally injured reports feeling safe in the foster home. Prospective adoptive parents did not provide appropriate supervision to the two children they were planning to adopt. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A day home provider was provided, the adoptive father has taken parental leave from work, and the adoptive parents are receiving counselling supports. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The youth met with a CFSA staff member. The youth was referred to a community agency and advised they could file a review of the decision to not offer an Enhancement Agreement, but the youth did not pursue this option. The Advocate reports that this matter has been addressed to their satisfaction.
Central Alberta CFSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MNs involving 11 children. Youth requested a youth worker and was denied services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A review of the information determined that MNs for two children were not related to abuse in care. Allegations regarding abuse in care involving nine children were unsubstantiated. After investigating the concern, youth services for the youth were approved. The Advocate reports this matter has been addressed to their satisfaction.
East Central Alberta CFSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MNs involving five children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A review of the information determined that MNs regarding all five children were related to allegations of abuse in care. Allegations regarding abuse in care involving three of the children were unsubstantiated. Allegations regarding abuse in care involving two children were substantiated and addressed to the satisfaction of the Advocate. The substantiated abuse resulted from one incident: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical discipline and emotional injury of two foster children by their foster parents. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foster parents have been provided with additional resources to ensure more appropriate forms of discipline. Additional casework supports and supervision have been put in place.
Edmonton and Area CFSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MNs involving 147 children or youth. *Note: Advocate reported 148. In consultation with the Advocate, number has been corrected to 147. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A review of the information determined that MNs regarding 21 children were not related to allegations of abuse in care. Allegations regarding abuse in care involving 86 children were unsubstantiated. Allegations regarding abuse in care involving 26 children were substantiated and addressed to the satisfaction of the Advocate. The substantiated abuse resulted from 12 incidents: *Note: Allegations of abuse involving 14 children remained under investigation at the time

CFSA	Concern Reported	Ministry Response
		<p>this quarter ended and the results will be reported on in the next reporting period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Physical abuse of three foster children by their foster parents. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Foster children were moved. ▪ Recommended that the foster parents receive further behaviour management training prior to being able to accept future placements. ○ Neglect of two foster children by their foster parents. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Foster children were moved and the home was closed. ○ Emotional injury of two foster children by their foster parents. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Foster children were moved and the license was varied to fewer children. ○ Inappropriate discipline techniques used by a foster parent on five foster children. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Foster parent was provided with information on more appropriate discipline and behaviour management techniques. ○ Sexual abuse of two foster children by a non-foster parent respite care provider selected by the foster parents. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Foster parents responded appropriately by reporting the matter immediately and ensuring no further contact with the alleged perpetrator. ▪ Foster children received counselling supports. ▪ Police investigated and charges were laid. ○ Physical abuse of three foster children by their foster parents. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Foster children were removed and two siblings were returned under a safety plan and significant casework supports provided. ○ Physical altercation between one of two children in a kinship care home and the kinship caregiver resulted in injury to the caregiver. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The child causing the injury was moved from the home. ▪ There are no concerns about the ability of the caregiver to provide appropriate care to the other child. ○ A group home staff member was involved in an inappropriate relationship with a group home resident. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The staff member no longer worked at the group home at the time that the matter was reported. ▪ Counselling supports were offered to the group home resident. ▪ Matter was referred to police. ○ An older sibling sexually abused a younger sibling in a foster home where four other foster children also resided. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Investigation determined that the foster parents were unaware of the incident but responded appropriately when they became aware. ▪ The child causing the abuse was removed from the foster home and was provided with counselling before being returned to the foster home with increased supervision and supports. ▪ Matter was referred to police. ○ Physical abuse and neglect of two foster children by their foster parents. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Foster children were moved and the foster home was closed. ○ In a foster home, an older foster child inappropriately touched a younger foster child.

CFSA	Concern Reported	Ministry Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Nations youth requiring braces was denied funding by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC). • Foster parents concerned about foster children being moved from their home. • Youth receiving life skills support was having difficulty accessing this support. • Youth in foster care wanted to remain in a particular placement. • Youth concerned with termination of Support and Financial Assistance Agreement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Investigation determined that the foster parents responded appropriately by increasing supervision and changing sleeping arrangements. ▪ Safety plan was developed and implemented. ○ A risk of physical abuse of three foster children was identified after it was alleged but not confirmed that the biological child of the foster parents had been physically abused. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The foster children were moved from the home while safety planning was done and additional supports were provided to the foster family. • The CFSA unsuccessfully appealed the matter to INAC. The CFSA approved payment of the necessary expenses and the matter was resolved. • The foster parents exercised their right to file an administrative review and the decision to move the children was reversed. • Steps were taken to make it easier for the youth to access the supports but the agency providing the supports indicated that the youth was not interested in receiving supports. The Advocate reports that this matter has been addressed to their satisfaction. • Arrangements were made to allow the youth to remain in the foster home because both the youth and the foster parents wanted the youth to remain in the home. A formal support plan was developed and implemented. • Although the decision to terminate the agreement was upheld in an administrative review, subsequent discussions resulted in the six-month extension of the agreement for the youth.
North Central Alberta CFSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MNs involving six children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review of the information determined that the MN regarding one child was not related to abuse in care. • Allegations regarding abuse in care involving two children were unsubstantiated. • Allegations regarding abuse in care involving three children were substantiated and addressed to the satisfaction of the Advocate. The substantiated abuse resulted from two incidents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A youth in group care was sexually assaulted by a youth in the community who was not receiving services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Youth who was assaulted received counselling supports. ▪ Matter was referred to police. ○ Inappropriate touching of two foster children by the eldest of three foster children in a foster home. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Foster child who initiated the inappropriate behaviour received counselling and additional supports, including a youth worker. ▪ A safety plan was put in place.

CFSA	Concern Reported	Ministry Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth wanted to remain with kinship caregivers rather than being moved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A supported independent living arrangement was arrived at for this older youth in order to facilitate his remaining in the kinship home.
Northwest Alberta CFSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MNs involving 14 children. Youth did not agree with placement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A review of the information determined that MNs regarding 14 children were related to allegations of abuse in care. Allegations regarding abuse in care involving six children were unsubstantiated. Allegations regarding abuse in care involving eight children were substantiated and addressed to the satisfaction of the Advocate. The substantiated abuse resulted from five incidents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inappropriate discipline and emotional injury of three foster children by their foster parents. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foster parents received additional training in appropriate parenting techniques and agreed to abstain from physical discipline. Foster children received counselling. Emotional injury of two foster children by the foster parents. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foster children moved and foster home closed. Inappropriate physical discipline of a foster child by their foster parents. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A revised support plan was put in place including increased monitoring of the home. The child was moved from the foster home and the foster home was put on hold. Physical and emotional injury to a foster youth while in a residential treatment facility. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foster youth had been moved from the facility before the disclosure was made and received counselling supports. Inappropriate sexual behaviour by a foster youth on a foster child in the same foster home. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foster youth was moved and foster child was provided with counselling. Matter was referred to police and they did not investigate. <p>The CFSA placement specialist reviewed and the Advocate reports that this matter has been addressed to their satisfaction.</p>
Northeast Alberta CFSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MN involving one child. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A review of the MN determined that the allegation of abuse in care was unsubstantiated.
Métis Settlements CFSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MNs involving 11 children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A review of the information determined that MNs regarding six children were not related to abuse in care. Allegations regarding abuse in care involving for the remaining five children were unsubstantiated.

Report on Delegated First Nation Agencies

Delegated First Nation Agency (DFNA)	Concern Reported	Response
Akamkispatinaw Ohpikihawasowin Child & Family Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MNs involving two children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A review of the information determined that all MNs involved allegations of abuse in care. Allegations regarding abuse in care for two children were unsubstantiated.
Blood Tribe Child Protection Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MNs involving two children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A review of the information determined that two MNs involved allegations of abuse in care. Allegations regarding abuse in care involving one child were unsubstantiated. Allegations regarding abuse in care involving the other child were made near the end of the reporting period and the investigation was not completed when the quarterly report was submitted by the Advocate and will be included in the next quarterly report.
Kasohkowew Child Wellness Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MNs involving three children. Foster youth disagreed with a decision to move the youth to another placement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A review of the information determined that the MN regarding one child was not related to abuse in care. Allegations regarding abuse in care involving one child were unsubstantiated. Allegations regarding abuse in care involving the other child were made near the end of the reporting period and the investigation was not complete when the quarterly report was submitted by the Advocate. The decision to move the youth was put on hold and work was done to ensure that behavioural and addictions issues of the youth can be successfully addressed in the current placement. The youth was not moved to a new placement.
Kee Tas Kee Now Child & Family Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MNs involving four children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A review of the information determined that all the MNs were regarding allegations of abuse in care. Allegations regarding abuse in care involving three children were made near the end of the reporting period and the investigations were not complete when the quarterly report was submitted by the Advocate. They will be included in the next quarterly report. Allegations regarding abuse in care involving one child was substantiated and addressed to the satisfaction of the Advocate. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The adult biological child of a kinship caregiver physically assaulted a child in kinship care. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child was moved from the home and the kinship home was closed.
Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MN involving one child. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A review of the information determined that the MN regarding allegations of abuse involving one child was substantiated and addressed to the satisfaction of the Advocate. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A foster child was sexually assaulted by a child living at the home of a babysitter used by the foster parents. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety plan implemented to eliminate contact between the two children and the babysitter is no longer being used. Matter was referred to police but charges not laid due to age of the perpetrator. *Note: Another foster child from the Western Cree Tribal Council (reported below) was also sexually assaulted at the same babysitter's.
North Peace Tribal Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MNs involving two children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A review of the information determined that both MNs involved allegations of abuse in care. Allegation of abuse in care involving one child was unsubstantiated. Allegation of abuse in care involving one child was substantiated and addressed to the

		<p>satisfaction of the Advocate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Group home staff member became intoxicated and was subsequently arrested while on a recreational outing with four group home residents. (Three residents from Calgary and Area CFSA and one from North Peace Tribal Council DFNA). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The CFSA followed up with the residential facility regarding policies and procedures around outings. ▪ Monitoring of the residential facility to strengthen reporting policies is ongoing. ▪ The group home staff member was terminated from the group home. <p>*Note: This is the same incident reported in the response to MNs involving the Calgary and Area CFSA.</p>
Piikani Child & Family Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MN involving one child or youth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review of the information determined that the MN involved allegations of abuse in care and was unsubstantiated.
Siksika Family Services Corporation (On-Reserve)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MN involving one child or youth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review of the information determined that the MN involved allegations of abuse in care. • Allegation of abuse involving one child was substantiated and addressed to the satisfaction of the Advocate. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Physical abuse of a foster child by the foster parent. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Foster child moved and was provided with counselling supports and the foster home closed. ▪ Matter was referred to police.
Siksika Calgary (Off-Reserve)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MNs involving five children or youth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review of the information determined that MNs related to three children were unsubstantiated and information relating to one child was not related to abuse in care. • Allegation of abuse in care involving one child was substantiated and addressed to the satisfaction of the Advocate. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sexual abuse of a foster child by two older foster children in the same foster home. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Child who was abused had already been moved to another placement when the disclosure was made. Assessment determined further supports not required at this time.
Stoney Child & Family Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MNs involving eight children or youth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review of the information determined that MNs relating to seven children did not involve abuse in care. • Allegation of abuse involving one child was substantiated and addressed to the satisfaction of the Advocate. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Emotional injury of a foster child by the foster parent. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Youth was moved from the foster home. ▪ Ongoing followup with the foster home.
Tribal Chiefs Child & Family Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MN involving one child 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review of the information determined that the MN relating to one child was an allegation of abuse in care and was unsubstantiated.
Western Cree Tribal Council Child Welfare Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MNs involving three children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review of the information regarding the MNs determined that information regarding one child was not related to abuse in care. • Allegation of abuse in care regarding one child was unsubstantiated. • Allegation of abuse involving one child was substantiated and addressed to the satisfaction of the Advocate. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A foster child was sexually assaulted by a child living at the home of a babysitter used by the foster parents. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safety plan implemented to eliminate contact between the two children and the

		<p>babysitter is no longer being used.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Matter was referred to police but charges not laid due to age of the perpetrator. <p>*Note: Another foster child from the Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council (reported above) was also sexually assaulted at the same babysitter's.</p>
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* The Office of the Child and Youth Advocate did not receive any MNs or have additional observations regarding the DFNAs not listed in the table above.