

Child Intervention: What does a report mean for your family?

What happens when a report is made about my family?

Anyone can contact Child Intervention when they are worried about the safety or well-being of a child.

When a report is made, we look to see if it fits the legal definition of abuse or neglect as described in the *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act*.

This is called an intake.

What is an intake?

An intake contains information about the concerns that were reported to us about your family, as well as some basic information, such as your phone number and who lives in your home.

- If the report does not fit the legal definitions of abuse or neglect, then the intake will be closed.
- If the concerns do meet the legal definitions of when a child may be in need of intervention, a caseworker will be assigned to gather more information.

How do caseworkers gather information?

Caseworkers gather information through various ways. This can include talking to you and any other parents or guardians of your child.

It can also include talking to school or daycare staff, doctors, extended family members, neighbours or family friends, and other people in contact with your child.

All of this information is used to decide if further intervention is required, according to the *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act*.

When will I be contacted?

If the intake does open, a caseworker will contact you as soon as possible. They will let you know that an intake has been generated about your child.

If you do get a call from Child Intervention, you have the right to know:

- The nature of concerns being reported,
- What the next steps are, and
- What supports are available to help you.

Your caseworker will work with you and your supports to address the safety concerns.

This may take one or more days, depending on the nature of the concerns.

Can I find out who reported me?

Your caseworker is not legally allowed to tell you who made the report about your child.

This is to ensure that the public feels safe reporting their concerns that a child's safety or well-being may be at risk.

What happens next?

Your caseworker uses the information that they've collected to help decide what steps are needed to address the reported concerns.

They will work with your family to help you understand what you should expect.

Your caseworker may also involve your family supports or other people in your life to decide if there are worries about the current safety of your child, or if there is cause to be concerned that your child's safety is at risk.

Usually, the safety concerns can be dealt with at the intake phase through phone calls or in-person visits. These will help your family build connections, access supports and create plans so that you feel less overwhelmed.

Your caseworker can also provide your family with resources that may be helpful, if you choose to use them.

However, if the safety, security and development of your child continues to be of concern, the intake will close and a safety assessment will open.

Your caseworker will tell you if a safety assessment is opened. They will help you understand what that means for your family and answer any questions you may have.

Want to learn more about safety assessments or other elements of child intervention?

- Talk with your caseworker
- Read the fact sheets available online at www.alberta.ca