

Your information

It is very important that we receive accurate information about you and your family so we will be asking you to show us your government-issued identification (I.D).

Please keep us informed of any changes to your information including your name, address, phone number, and marital status while we are working together.

All information will be kept strictly confidential on our client records system and will only be able to be accessed by authorized persons.

For any questions regarding the confidentiality or the security of your information please contact us using the information on the back panel of this brochure.



We value:

- ▶ The right of children and youth to be safe and secure
- ▶ The diversity of families
- ▶ Positive space that is inclusive
- ▶ Professional practice that begins with a strength-based approach
- ▶ An open and transparent organization
- ▶ Innovation and creativity
- ▶ Social justice and the importance of advocacy
- ▶ Working together to create positive change in our community

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FAMILY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Welcome to our positive and anti-oppressive space, where every individual, regardless of age, is valued and respected whatever their culture, faith, ethnicity, race, ancestry, class, ability, sexual orientation and gender identity.

Accessible formats of this document are available free upon request.
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RACE, RELIGION, LANGUAGE, ETHNICITY ...

Your guide to data collection
by your local children's aid society



RACE, RELIGION,
LANGUAGE & ETHNICITY IS
BROCHURE 9 IN A SERIES

How child welfare works in Ontario

At Family & Children's Services (F&CS, also known as the Children's Aid Society), we act on behalf of the Ontario government to keep children safe in their families and communities.

The Ontario law which allows us to do our job is called the Child and Family Services Act (CFSA). This Act gives us the authority to work with families when we are worried about the safety and well-being of a child.

Ontario judges, the Child and Family Services Board (CFSRB), the Office of the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth, and the Human Rights Commission help us make sure that we do not use this law in ways that are unfair, discriminating or not helpful to families in keeping their children safe.

What is culture?

Culture is something that exists in each family and community as well as racial, ethnic and religious groups.



Why are we asking about culture?

In Ontario, there are two groups of families that are currently telling CASs that we are being unfair in our work with them because of the particular racial group or community that they belong to. Indigenous (First Nations, Inuit and Metis) and Black leaders have told CASs that we remove more children from their communities than any other group. Statistics in certain areas back up these concerns – we do have a disproportionate number of Black and Indigenous children in care.

So to help us change this, we need to keep track of who we work with and their cultural background. It is important to know the ethnic, racial and religious backgrounds of families so that:

1. we can work with people in culturally appropriate ways to support families and communities in keeping their own children safe
2. we can track our work to make sure that we are

not discriminating in the way we work with certain groups.

All CASs in Ontario are required to ask families about their cultural background.

What can you expect?

Your worker will ask you questions about your heritage and any cultural groups that you and your family identify with. Your worker needs to ask these questions so that they can learn

from you about what is important to your family and what your family needs when working with us.

What will happen to your information?

Our organization will report to the government on a regular basis about the cultural backgrounds of the families we serve: for example, the percentage of Indigenous families that we serve.

We will not share personal identifying information about you or your family, we only report trends to the government.

Our organization, the government, and the Human Rights Commission will be looking at this information and the overall trends in CASs across the province.

If you have any questions about this please do not hesitate to talk to your worker or their supervisor.