

## **WHAT IF I OBJECT TO FACS' INVOLVEMENT WITH MY FAMILY?**

You have the right to challenge FACS' involvement. This can be further pursued through Family Court.

## **DO I NEED A LAWYER?**

You have the right to consult a lawyer at any time during the provision of services to you by FACS. However, much of our work is done without court involvement.

## **WILL FACS TAKE MY CHILD?**

Children are only removed from their homes when there is an immediate or extreme risk, or there are no other options left to ensure their safety. Most children remain at home.

## **WHO WILL KNOW ABOUT THIS?**

FACS is committed to ensuring and protecting your privacy and confidentiality.

## **WHAT IF I HAVE A CONCERN OR COMPLAINT?**

Our work is overseen by the Government of Ontario. There are many ways that you can bring concerns forward. Talk to our staff, management or make a written complaint. The Child and Family Services Review Board, the Ministry and the Office of the Provincial Advocate are also there to hear your concerns.

*Please see our Guide for Parents, Caregivers and Community Members for more details and for a full listing of resources where you can find more information about child protection services in Ontario.*

***Need an interpreter? Please contact our office.***



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F A Q

# Answers to Your Questions about Family and Children's Services and our work in Child Protection



## ***WHY IS FACS VISITING MY FAMILY?***

FACS is required by law to respond to any concerns they receive about the care and safety of a child.

## ***WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN?***

We will try to establish the facts of the situation, whether our involvement is needed and what community supports, if any, might be helpful.

## ***CAN FACS ENTER MY HOME WITHOUT MY PERMISSION OR WITHOUT A WARRANT?***

In situations where we have reason to believe a child is at imminent risk, the law gives FACS the right of entry in order to assess the safety of a child.

## ***DOES MY WORKER HAVE TO BE REGISTERED WITH THE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK?***

Child protection workers are not required to be registered with the College, nor does registration alone qualify someone to do child protection work. Our staff are specially trained and authorized to work with families.

## ***CAN FACS TALK TO MY CHILD AT SCHOOL WITHOUT MY KNOWLEDGE OR PERMISSION?***

An interview may take place at home, school or any other reasonable time or location. Depending on the severity of the concern, it may be without the knowledge or consent of the parent or caregiver.

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