



**IT TAKES A VILLAGE
TO KEEP KIDS SAFE**

Family and Children's
Services OF FRONTENAC,
LENNOX and ADDINGTON
Safety. Comfort. Hope. Together.

WHERE DO KIDS NEED TO BE SAFE?
Everywhere in the Community.

CALL 613-545-3227
NOW 855-445-3227

WHO SHOULD KEEP THEM SAFE?
Everyone in the Community.



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You might think that it's **someone else's job** to keep kids in our community safe.

But the best way to make this community safe for all children and youth is for the **entire community** to make it their job.



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Child abuse and neglect is not what many people think it is.

If you read the news, you might think most of the work we do involves sexual abuse. That happens, but so do a range of other forms of abuse and neglect. Some of the signs of abuse or neglect are easy to recognize, but many are not. They can be complicated and difficult to identify.



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The parents we see are not that much different than you.



Most are just ordinary people.

Some have a mental health or addiction challenge. Others face a wide variety of other challenges. They're real people. They're your neighbours, people you work with, people you see when you go shopping

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The children and youth we serve are just like other kids

They have the **same challenges that any other child or youth faces** but they often face barriers that prevent them from being all they can be.



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We help these families

We help strengthen these families to try and keep them together. We often work with extended families of children and youth to help take care of them. We connect families to services they need. The work we do with them is not always easy. But we can make a real difference.



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But we can't do it without you

We can't be everywhere, but the community can.
If you see a family that needs help,
then *help them* by contacting us.



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HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

THE LAW IN ONTARIO IS CLEAR

1. Any person who has reasonable grounds to suspect child is being maltreated **MUST** report it.
2. The person who sees the maltreatment **MUST** be the one to contact a Children's Aid Society.
3. Even if you know a report has already been made about a child, you **MUST** make a further report if there are additional grounds to suspect maltreatment.
4. If you are a **doctor, teacher or other professional**, the law specifically calls on you to take action.



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HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

WHAT DOES ABUSE OR NEGLECT IN CHILDREN LOOK LIKE?

It is not always easy to recognize. And children are affected in different ways.
Here are some basic things to look for.

1. **PHYSICAL:** Injuries that are not consistent with the explanation and/or that are of varying ages or that appear over time.
2. **SEXUAL:** Injuries or discomfort in the genital area, stained or bloody undergarments, pregnancy in young girls.
3. **EMOTIONAL:** Severe depression, extreme withdrawal, aggressiveness or attention seeking behaviours. Also can include frequent sickness or a general failure to thrive.

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HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Domestic violence at home is related to child abuse and neglect. In many of the families where an adult partner is assaulted, children and youth are also assaulted.

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HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

If a child or youth discloses abuse and/or neglect remember these steps:

1. **Support the child** calmly, and control your own reaction
2. Tell the child that you will **need to tell someone** who may help with the problem
3. Document **what the child said**, as close to verbatim as possible
4. **Contact us** as soon as possible



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We have people waiting to talk to you on the phone 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

WHEN YOU CALL

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Your call will be taken by an experienced child protection worker.



WHEN YOU CALL

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You will be asked your name, your phone number and if you wish to remain anonymous to the client.



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We'll also need your contact information in case we need clarification, but this will not be given out to the family.




WHEN YOU CALL

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Don't wait to gather more information.
*Contact us **immediately*** when you see a child who needs help.



If for any reason you can't get in touch with us or **if the matter is urgent, call your local police or 911.**

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It takes a village to keep a child or youth safe

We all have one thing in common and that's family.

Your family members look out for you and you look out for them. That's the spirit we need to keep children and youth safe. We're all part of a larger family we call community. By following these steps and working together, we can make a difference in the lives of these children and youth, and our community.



Find Out More

www.FamilyandChildren.ca



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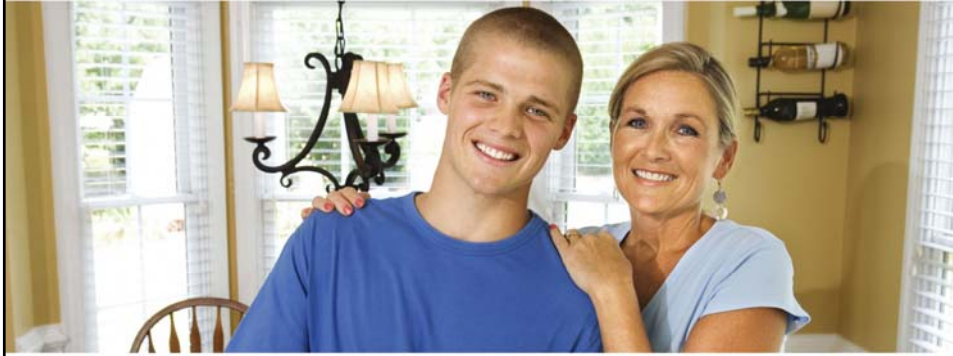


FamilyandChildren.ca



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BE the help kids need
A FOSTER PARENT



www.BeTheHelpKidsNeed.ca



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