

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES

POLICY DIRECTIVE: CW 001-07

This directive under section 20.1 of the *Child and Family Services Act* directs children's aid societies as of February 6, 2007 to apply the Ontario Permanency Funding Policy Guidelines issued January 26, 2007 where a society is considering providing financial assistance to an individual child and his /her family in service delivery.

REQUIREMENTS:

For completion by February 6, 2007, children's aid societies will be required to develop a plan to:

- inform staff about the purpose, content and procedures regarding the Ontario Permanency Funding Policy Guidelines.
- ensure relevant staff are trained on the Ontario Permanency Funding Policy Guidelines to enable full implementation of the guidelines and required documentation.
- establish internal tracking mechanisms for the financial assistance provided as outlined in the Ontario Permanency Funding Policy Guidelines.
- develop a plan to review and revise all internal policy and procedure manuals and develop a plan to advise staff of the changes.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

- Societies to report service and expenditure data for each of the permanency options in the 2006/07 Third Quarter year-to-date report and Multi-Year Results Based Plan.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

This policy directive will come into effect on **February 6, 2007**.

INTRODUCTION:

The Child Welfare Transformation (2005) document provided a strategic plan for the provision of child welfare services that would maintain the focus on child safety while enhancing permanency options for children receiving services from children's aid societies in Ontario.

A key component of the Child Welfare Transformation is the Pillars of Permanence that include:

- Admission Prevention
- Kinship Service
- Kinship Care
- Customary Care
- Legal Custody
- Foster Care
- Adoption
- Youth Leaving Care

The Ontario Permanency Funding Policy Guidelines provide a framework for the provision of financial assistance, for the purposes of supporting admission prevention; kinship service; place of safety¹; customary care; legal custody²; and adoption options. The guidelines reflect the principles that financial assistance should be based on the unique needs of the child and/or the family's ability to meet those needs.

Financial assistance that will be provided where children are in the care of a children's aid society (kinship care, foster care) and for Crown wards leaving care is not included in this policy. Societies will continue to follow financial policy directions currently in place for these types of care. For clarification a kinship care family approved as a kinship foster home will be eligible for foster care per diem rates.

Key Features of the Ontario Permanency Funding Policy Guidelines

- The guidelines have been developed to clarify eligibility for financial support in specific permanency areas and assist societies in making decisions regarding that support.
- The guidelines provide criteria to societies for determining financial assistance for each family within the limits of their current funding envelope.
- The guidelines provide clear accountability and record-keeping requirements of societies in each specific permanency area.

This policy directive has been developed through a review of legislation, policies and practices from other jurisdictions and within Ontario. The Ministry has consulted with stakeholder groups that include children's aid societies, the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies, the Foster Parent Society of Ontario, and organizations of grandparents caring for their grandchildren. The

¹ Place of Safety – in relation to section 37(5) of the *Child and Family Services Act*.

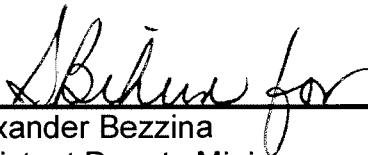
² Legal Custody – in relation to section 65.2 of the *Child and Family Services Act*

Ministry appreciates the support and expertise of all those who contributed to the policy development including the Child Welfare Secretariat's Permanency Reference Group, Adoption Reference Group, Ad Hoc Working Group pertaining to legal custody and post adoption services and the Kinship Working Group.

ISSUANCE OF POLICY DIRECTIVE: January 26, 2007.



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