

Birth Parent Services and Adoption Planning

In Saskatchewan, the Ministry of Social Services, Child and Family Services (CFS) provides adoption planning and supports to birth parents who are thinking of placing their child for adoption. A caseworker will discuss with birth parents what is involved if they want to place their child for adoption, as well as other options they may have considered, including parenting.

If you are a birth parent interested in discussing your options, contact your nearest Child and Family Services office and ask to speak with an adoption worker. Information about your case will remain confidential and will not be shared with anyone else, including your family.

If you become aware of a birth parent who is thinking about placing a child for adoption, refer them to the nearest Child and Family Services office to speak with an adoption worker.

Services

Birth parents thinking of placing a child for adoption may consider doing so with the ministry through a **Voluntary Committal** adoption plan (also known as a 'domestic adoption'), or independently with someone they know through an **Independent Adoption** (also known as a 'private adoption').

- In a Voluntary Committal, birth parents make a plan directly with the ministry to place their child for adoption. Birth parents are able to participate in the selection of prospective adoptive parents who

have already been approved by the ministry through a home study process. The adoption is facilitated by the ministry and there is no cost to the prospective adoptive parents.

- In an **Independent Adoption**, birth parents make a plan for adoption directly with someone they know and identify, such as a friend or relative. The adoption is facilitated by a lawyer working on behalf of the prospective adoptive parents, who are responsible for all fees and costs, including costs to have

their home study and background checks completed.

Birth parents interested in either type of adoption must meet with the ministry to receive the planning and counselling they require to make an informed decision on adoption, and to complete the necessary legal birth parent processes that are part of the adoption plan. There are no organizations in the province approved or licensed by the ministry to provide this type of planning and counselling.

Birth Parent Rights

Birth parents should know and understand their rights, and should have thought about all their options. When birth parents meet with a caseworker from Child and Family Services, the following are discussed:

- The right to seek legal counsel regarding any decision made.
- The right to make decisions without being influenced by other people.
- The right to confidentiality, including the right to not have family members or any other individuals notified of the pregnancy or whatever plan is discussed or made.
- The ability to parent with supports, such as support through other ministry programs including Income Support. They may also have the ability to parent with support from family members.
- The ability to place a child into temporary care of Child and Family Services while making a decision.
- The right to participate in the selection of an adoptive family, express what they hope for in an adoptive family, as well as what an adoptive family will provide their child.

- What type of communication with the child and adoptive family they hope to have after the adoption occurs, while keeping in mind that communication agreements are created in good faith and are not legally enforceable.
- The loss of parental rights when a child becomes adopted, which includes the loss of ability to make decisions regarding the health and safety of the child.
- The right or ability to change their mind about an adoption plan (referred to as 'revocation') up to 21 days after they consent, even if the child has already been placed with the adoptive family.
- The right or ability of a person adopted on or after April 1, 1997, to receive a certified copy of their original birth registration six months after their 18th birthday if no veto has been placed upon its release by the birth parents. This means that in an adoption where the identities of the birth and adoptive families were not known or exchanged, the adoptee will be able to find out the identities of the birth parents unless the birth parents place a veto on this release of information.

In Saskatchewan, birth mothers and fathers have equal rights with respect to a child. Before an adoption plan can proceed, both must agree to it in writing. If one birth parent does not agree to an adoption plan, then they have the right to consult with their own lawyer and seek primary custody in court. Issues of custody must be resolved before an adoption plan can proceed.

Unauthorized Placement

In Saskatchewan, it is illegal to advertise that you would like to place a child for adoption, or that you would like to adopt a child through any type of means, including social media sites, newspapers, bulletins, etc. As well, third-party individuals, including professionals such as physicians, nurses, lawyers, pastors, teachers, etc., cannot arrange the placement of children for the purposes of adoption. This means that third-party individuals cannot arrange for birth and prospective adoptive parents to meet in order to develop an adoption plan. Under legislation, these types of activities carry penalties including fines and imprisonment.

Further Information

For more information, contact your nearest Ministry of Social Services office. Your call will be referred to a person who can appropriately respond to your questions.

Individuals may also contact The Evermore Centre for general information on adoption, as well as community supports available to both birth and prospective adoptive parents. The Evermore Centre also has a resource library that can be accessed by the public. They can be reached toll-free at 1-866-869-2727.

Child and Family Services Offices

Buffalo Narrows Waite Street S0M 0J0	1-800-667-7685 306-235-1700	Moose Jaw 36 Athabasca Street E. S6H 6V2	306-694-3647
Creighton 1st Street East S0P 0A0	1-800-532-9580 306-688-8808	Nipawin 210 - 1st Street E. S0E 1E0	1-800-487-8594 306-862-1700
Estevan 1219 - 5th Street S4A 0Z1	306-637-4550	North Battleford #300, 1146 - 102 St. S9A 1G1	1-877-993-9911 306-446-7705
Fort Qu'Appelle 177 Segwun Avenue S0G 1S0	1-800-667-3260 306-332-3260	Prince Albert 800 Central Avenue S6V 6G1	1-866-719-6164 306-953-2422
Kindersley 125 1st Avenue East S0L 1S0	306-463-5470	Regina 2045 Broad Street S4P 3V6	306-787-3760
La Loche La Loche Avenue S0M 1G0	1-877-371-1131 306-822-1711	Rosetown 122 - 2nd Avenue North S0L 2V0	306-882-5400
La Ronge 1212 Highway 2 South S0J 1L0	1-866-755-5554 306-425-5511	Saskatoon 122 - 3rd Avenue North S7K 2H6	1-877-884-1687 306-933-5961
Lloydminster 4910 - 50th Street S9V 1Z5	1-877-367-7707 306-820-4250	Swift Current 350 Cheadle Street West S9H 4G3	306-778-8219
Meadow Lake Unit 5, 101 Railway Place S9X 1X6	1-877-368-8898 306-236-7500	Weyburn 110 Souris Avenue N.E. S4H 2Z9	306-848-2404
Melfort 107 Crawford St. E. S0E 1A0	1-800-487-8640 306-752-6100	Yorkton 72 Smith Street East S3N 2Y4	306-786-1300