

Family Support Agreements

Helping families stay
strong and together



What is a Family Support Agreement and How Could it Help Your Family?

A Family Support Agreement is a voluntary, written agreement between you and a Child and Family Services (CFS) agency.

It gives short-term help when your family is facing challenges.

You can ask about a Family Support Agreement. Your situation can be reviewed to determine if an agreement is the right kind of support for your family. You can discuss with your CFS worker.

How can a Family Support Agreement help?

- You can get help early, before things get worse.
- You help make the plan for your family.
- Your child stays with you, and connected to family, culture and community.
- You'll know what kind of help will be provided.
- Your strengths and culture are respected.
- It is voluntary. No court is involved.

How do I ask about a Family Support Agreement?

You can ask about an agreement at any time.

- If you already have a CFS worker, talk to them.
- Your CFS worker can review your situation to see if an agreement is a good fit.
- If an agreement is a good fit, your worker will explain what support may be included.

Important to Know

Family Support Agreements are not regular financial support programs.

CFS offers them when there are challenges that, if left unaddressed, may lead to safety concerns for a child.

If your family is already caring for a child safely without CFS, an agreement may not be offered.

If you are looking for help but don't need CFS involvement, call **211** or visit **mb.211.ca** to find services in your community.

- You can ask for an agreement.
- CFS decides whether it's the right fit.
- Not all families will be offered one.
- If safety concerns remain, CFS may take more steps to keep a child safe.
- Signing an agreement does not take away your role as a parent.

What help may be included in a Family Support Agreement?

Support depends on your family's needs.

CFS agencies may offer some services directly, or help connect you to programs in your community. The kinds of help that may be included are:

- Parenting programs, family helpers or youth mentors.
- Daycare or summer programs for children.
- Help applying for housing or emergency shelter.
- Referrals to counselling, mental health or addictions support.
- Indigenous cultural programs, land-based healing, Elder teachings or traditional medicines.
- Limited financial help like bus fare, food or children's clothing.

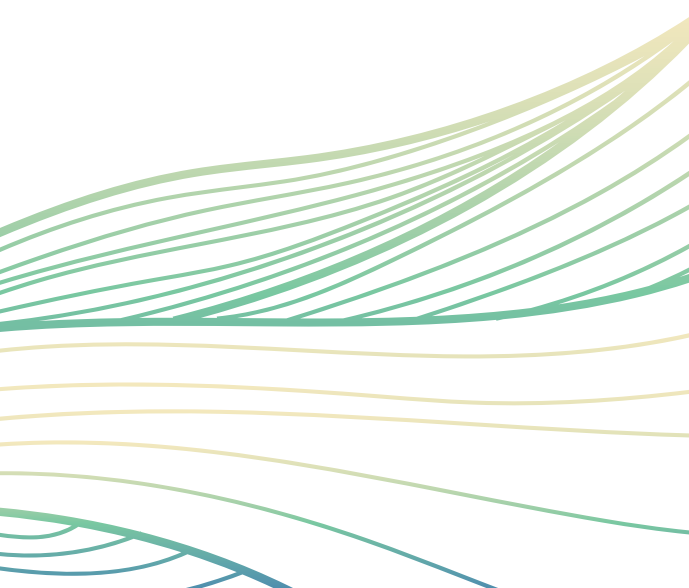
Your CFS worker will talk with you about what supports are available and how to access them.





Working together to keep families strong

In October 2024, new agreements that give CFS more ways to help families stay together became law.

- Family support agreements
 - Kinship care agreements
 - Customary care agreements
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Need Help or More Information?

Talk to your CFS worker about whether a family support agreement could help your family.



Scan the QR for a list of CFS contacts or visit:
manitoba.ca/fs/childfam/cfsagencies.html

