



GOAL

Ensure that the rights and interests of children, youth and young adults are protected and upheld, and that their views are heard and considered by decision-makers.

Who do RCY advocates help?

Children and youth receiving reviewable services or programs provided or funded by government including: services under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*, early childhood development or child care, addiction services for children, mental health services for children, Child in the Home of a Relative support, services under the *Adoption Act*, services under the *Youth Justice Act*, services under the *Community Living Authority Act*, and additional services or programs prescribed by regulation under the *Representative for Children and Youth Act*.

Reviewable services are generally either provided by or funded by the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) or a delegated Aboriginal Agency and include services to:

- children and youth in care.
- young people under a youth agreement.
- young people in custody.
- children and youth with special needs.
- youth with special needs transitioning to adult services.
- young adults, from their 19th to 24th birthdays, who are eligible to receive services from Community Living BC and who received a reviewable service within 15 months of their 19th birthday.

How can we help children, youth and young adults?

- Discuss rights and what to do if those rights are ignored.
- Help with connections to services and the programs they need.
- Provide support to speak up in a way that might solve their problem.
- Be a part of discussions about the care and services they receive and the decisions made about them.
- Assist transitions out of MCFD care.
- Assist transitions for those eligible for Community Living BC services.

What we can't do

- Override decisions made by ministries, child- and youth-serving organizations, or CLBC.
- Speak for children and youth in a law court or influence legal decisions made about them.
- Represent children in custody or access matters or change these arrangements.
- Provide child protection services.
- Act on behalf of a young person in a Representation Agreement or application for Committeeship.