

REPRESENTATIVE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

ADVOCACY FACT SHEET

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.

Head Office Suite 400, 1019 Wharf Street Victoria, B.C. V8W 2Y9 Head Office: 250-356-6710 Toll-free: 1-800-476-3933 Fax: 250-356-0837 Email: rcy@rcybc.ca Website: www.rcybc.ca

rcybc rcybcyouth



rcybcyouth