

Fact Sheet: Removed Child Class and Removed Child Family Class Overview

On March 10, 2025, the Claims Period opened for the Removed Child Class and Removed Child Family Class in the First Nations Child and Family Services and Jordan's Principle Settlement.

ELIGIBILITY

The Removed Child Class includes:

- First Nations Individuals who, while under the Age of Majority, were removed from their homes between April 1, 1991, and March 31, 2022, by Child Welfare Authorities, and
- The removal from home happened while the Child or their Caregiving Parents or Caregiving Grandparents were Ordinarily Resident on Reserve or living in the Yukon, and
- The placement was funded by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC).

The **Removed Child Family Class** includes the Caregiving Parents or Caregiving Grandparents of a Removed Child. Individuals may be eligible for compensation in this Class if they:

- Lived with, assumed and exercised parental responsibilities over the associated Removed Child at the time the Child was removed, and
- Were the ones from whom the Removed Child was first removed.

Some individuals may be eligible for compensation as a Removed Child **and** as a Caregiving Parent or Caregiving Grandparent. A separate Claim Form is required for each Class.

Eligibility for compensation does not apply to:

- First Nations Children who were removed from their homes in the Northwest Territories or Nunavut
- Foster parents
- All other members of the Removed Child Family Class who are not Caregiving Parents or Caregiving Grandparents (e.g., brothers, sisters, non-Caregiving Parents and non-Caregiving Grandparents)
- Caregiving Parents and Caregiving Grandparents who committed Abuse (as defined by the Settlement Agreement) that led to the removal of the Child

CLAIMS PROCESS

Submission process

- To apply for compensation, Class Members need to complete and submit a Claim
 Form to the Administrator, along with a copy (photocopy, scan or photo) of their valid
 government-issued identification. Claim Forms can be submitted online at
 Portal.FNChildClaims.ca, or by email, fax or mail.
- Class Members who belong to both the Removed Child Class and the Removed Child Family Class need to submit a separate Claim Form for each Class.

Representatives

- The Administrator will not accept Claims submitted on behalf of another person unless:
 - The Claim is submitted by a legally appointed Personal Representative on behalf of a Person Under Disability (i.e., a person who lacks the mental capacity to manage or make reasonable decisions about their affairs)
 - The Claim is submitted on behalf of a deceased person by the executor of their estate or by their eligible heir

Submission timelines

- If the Claimant is over the <u>Age of Majority</u> when the Claims Period opened on March 10, 2025, the Claimant (or their representative) has until March 10, 2028, to submit their Claim.
- If the Claimant is under the Age of Majority on March 10, 2025, they will have three years from when they reach the Age of Majority to submit a Claim. This means that the closing date of the Claims Period depends on when the Claimant reaches the Age of Majority.
 - o For example, if an individual is 15 years old on March 10, 2025, and they live in Ontario where the Age of Majority is 18, they will have three years to submit a Claim from the day they turn 18.
- The timeframe for when Removed Child Family Class Members can submit a Claim depends on when they reach the Age of Majority, not when the Removed Child reaches the Age of Majority.
 - For example, if an individual is 25 years old on March 10, 2025, and their Child who was removed is now 5, they will have until March 10, 2028, to submit a Claim.
- Minors can submit a Claim up to two years before they reach the Age of Majority where they currently live. Eligible Claimants will receive compensation only after they reach the Age of Majority.

Representatives

- The Personal Representative of a Person Under Disability must follow the submission timelines associated with each Claimant's Class.
- Representatives of deceased Class Members of any age who passed away **before** March 10, 2025, must submit their Claim by March 10, 2028.
- Representatives of deceased Class Members who pass away **after** March 10, 2025, while under the Age of Majority, have three years from the date of death to submit a Claim.

COMPENSATION

Timelines

Compensation amounts and timelines vary by Class and circumstances.

- For the Removed Child Class, compensation will be sent to eligible Claimants as their Claims are processed. This means they could receive compensation within 6 to 12 months of submitting a Claim. Depending on the individual's circumstances, this could take more time.
- Claims submitted by Removed Child Family Class Members will be processed after
 the Ultimate Claims Deadline, which is four years from when their Claims Period
 opened and includes the three-year Claims Period and one year for extension
 requests. This timeline ensures that any competing Claims—where more than two
 Caregiving Parents or Caregiving Grandparents submitted a Claim for the same
 Removed Child—can be resolved.

Eligible Claimants will receive compensation after they reach the Age of Majority.

Amounts

- Generally, Base Compensation payments may be up to \$40,000 for each eligible Removed Child. Some Claimants may be eligible for additional payments.
- Caregiving Parents or Caregiving Grandparents of more than one Removed Child may be eligible for multiple Base Compensation payments.
- If a Claimant qualifies as a Class Member under multiple Classes, their compensation amounts will not be combined. Claimants will receive the higher single amount for which they qualify.

RESOURCES AND SUPPORTS

Claims support

- Class Members do not have to pay anyone to help them submit their Claim or receive payment under this Settlement.
- Several resources and supports are available at no cost to help Class Members submit a Claim.
- The Settlement website, <u>FNChildClaims.ca</u>, has information and resources to help Class Members complete their Claim Form, including guides and step-by-step instructional videos.
- Class Members who have questions or need support with their Claim can call the Administrator toll-free at 1-833-852-0755. If additional supports are needed, the Administrator may connect them to a Claims Helper.
- Claims Helpers can provide one-on-one, trauma-informed support with completing
 the Claim Form, whether over the phone, by video call or in person, where available.
 Claims Helpers can also assist Class Members with connecting to local cultural and
 wellness services and resources.
- Claims Helpers are located across Canada in some First Nations communities, rural and remote areas as well as urban centres.

Wellness support

- Free mental health and wellness support is available to Class Members 24 hours a day through the Hope for Wellness Helpline at 1-855-242-3310 or online at <u>HopeForWellness.ca</u>. Support is available in English, French, Cree and Ojibway (Anishinaabemowin) on request.
- Children and youth can also call the Kids Help Phone anytime at 1-800-668-6868 or text FIRSTNATIONS to 686868.

QUICK LINKS

- Removed Child Class
- Removed Child Family Class
- Help and Resources
- <u>Settlement Agreement</u>