

Family Care Home Investigation Guideline for Foster Caregivers

What happens during a Family Care Home Investigation?

1. A report of concern is made about possible abuse or neglect in a Foster Home. MCFD must assess the concern and investigate.
2. Your Resource Social Worker will call you to tell you that an allegation has been made, and the Investigation process has started. She will give you a copy of Policy 8.20: Family Care Home Investigations.**
3. Your Resource Social Worker will advise you to call a Support Worker to help you. This is strongly recommended! She will provide you with names and phone numbers. You may ask your Resource Social Worker to contact a Support Worker for you.

** The Support Worker will attend all meetings with you and will provide support and information throughout the process. Your Support Worker has no role in the investigation, and no decision-making authority. He/she will keep your information confidential. For more information on the role of the Support Worker please see www.fosteringokanagan.com/protocols-and-support

4. The Guardianship Social Worker(s) for the children in the home will decide if they will remain in the home during the investigation. You will stay in pay during the investigation process.
5. Police involvement is necessary where allegations involve:
 - the child having been physically harmed as a result of abuse or neglect and the circumstances fall within the mandate of the police to investigate;
 - the child having been sexually abused or sexually exploited; or
 - a criminal act having occurred that affects the immediate safety of the child or other individual
6. You will meet with the Investigating Social Worker as soon as possible, where you will hear more about the concern and you will be given the opportunity to provide your information. This step will be delayed if police are investigating.
7. Your Resource Social Worker is available during the process to provide support and information. You may wish to include him/her in any meetings you attend.

8. You will be updated every two weeks to inform you about the investigation. It is expected to be complete in 30 days, though it may be longer if necessary.
9. When the Investigating Social Worker has completed gathering information, he/she will write a report and meet with you. You will receive a summary of the investigation and will have a chance to discuss it. Recommendations might be made.
10. You will then meet with the Resources Team Leader and your Resource Social Worker to discuss the future use of your home.
11. You have the right to appeal the decision to the Director of Quality Assurance.

During a Family Care Home Investigation, you have the right:

- To obtain legal help (at your own expense)
- To receive assistance from your Foster Parent Coordinator and/or the BCFPA Advocate
- To be kept informed about the investigation
- To give your information, views and concerns
- To ask for a review of the process
- To receive your fee for service

**Documents available at www.fosteringokanagan.com or ask your Foster Parent Coordinator for a copy.