

# Child, Youth & Family Supports

## Disclosure of Information to Former Children in Care (PCC)

Transforming our core programs and services for better outcomes

### Disclosure of Information to Former Children in Care

Former children in permanent care and custody often have questions about the reasons they came into care and their birth families. This information may or may not have been shared with them while they were in care. Nonetheless, even in circumstances when it was shared, they may not have retained it. This information can be of critical importance to them as they seek to understand their own history and personal circumstances.

In the past, former children in permanent care and custody have had to apply for information about their time in care of the province through the Freedom of Information & Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPOP). The information they receive can be heavily redacted due to the legislative requirements of the FOIPOP Act. This process, according to feedback provided by former children in care, may provide them with little sense of themselves, their family and their history.

### New Process for the Disclosure of Information to Former Children in Care

Former children in care who are 19 years or age or older, were subject to an order for permanent care and custody and were not adopted, may apply for information contained in relevant DCS files about themselves, why they were removed from their parents' care, their time in care, and information about their family.

Where information may pose a risk to the health, safety or well-being of any person to whom the information relates, such information may be withheld as per the authority of the Minister. The Minister is not able to release personal information about any of the following persons unless consent has been obtained from those persons:

- a. Foster parents, foster siblings or foster relatives;
- b. Other former children in care;
- c. A person who made a report under Section 23 of the CFSA, including their identity;
- d. Individuals who provide voluntary services to an agency.

All requests received under this process will be completed \*with support from Post Adoption Services.

Former Children in Care who were in temporary or voluntary care and are seeking access to information should be directed to apply via FOIPOP.

<https://foipop.novascotia.ca/foia/#/home>

March 2017



## Process for Applying

Any former children in care, seeking access to information from their time in care, and are unsure of what their status was, should be directed to Post Adoption Services at (902) 424-2755 for clarification.

Any former children in care who were in permanent care and custody should be encouraged to apply via the Post Adoption Services

Requests for information should be submitted by completing the "Former Children in Care Disclosure Form". Applicants are required to attached proof of their identity by including a photocopy of one of the following:

- Driver's license
- Birth certificate
- Baptismal certificate

All completed inquiry forms should be forwarded to:

### **Post Adoption Services**

Department of Community Services

Dartmouth District Office

Child, Youth and Family Supports

103 Garland Avenue, Suite 101

Dartmouth, NS B3B 0K5

Phone: (902) 424-2755