



<i>Child Protection Act R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. C-5.1</i>	Program	Child Protection	
	Subject	Case Conferences	Policy # 1.17
Effective Date: November 14, 2017		Authorized by: Craig Dalton	
Revised Date:		Deputy Minister	

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 Information sharing and collaboration among service providers is paramount to the protection of vulnerable children. Case conferences are formal meetings used to bring family members, service providers and professionals together, in the best interest of the child, to share relevant information to help mitigate risk and protect children.

2.0 POLICY STATEMENT

2.1 In the best interest of children, social workers may facilitate coordination of case conferences to support shared responsibility for the protection of vulnerable children.

2.2 Social workers shall schedule case conferences, in the best interests of children, to:

- strengthen shared responsibility for the protection of vulnerable children;
- share relevant information;
- gather evidence and assess risks to children;
- develop appropriate child safety plans;
- monitor progress on risk mitigation measures;
- strengthen the child's voice;
- improve outcomes for children;
- promote informed risk decision-making; and,
- provide a holistic and coordinated child protection response to children and families.

2.3 In the best interests of the child, parents, extended family members, children as age appropriate, and identified support persons for children and parents, may be invited and

encouraged to attend and participate in case conferences, unless to do so would jeopardize the safety and security of persons involved.

- 2.4 People with relevant professional expertise, direct knowledge of the family, or the ability to provide service or support to the child or family may be invited to participate in the case conference.
- 2.5 A case conference may be held prior to, or following, a Change of Legal Status meeting; however, a case conference cannot be used to determine decisions pertaining to the legal status of a child.

3.0 PROCEDURES

- 3.1 The social worker will advise all invited persons prior to the case conference of :
- purpose;
 - preparations required; and,
 - expectations of respectful participation, including confidentiality.
- 3.2 Social workers will review requirements for informed consent and sharing of relevant personal information with persons receiving child protection service prior to the case conference and with case conference participants.
- 3.3 Consent to share information is not required when the relevant information being shared meets criteria under section 7 of the *Child Protection Act*.
- 3.4 The social worker is responsible to ensure an accurate record of the case conference is completed and placed on the child and/or parent file per the Documentation Policy requirements.

4.0 REFERENCES

Change of Legal Status Meeting Policy 1.12
Documentation 1.3

HISTORY: