

<i>Child Protection Act R.S.P.E.I 1988, Cap. C-5.1</i>	Program	Child Protection	
	Subject	Statement of Principle	Policy # 1.1
Effective Date: July 5, 2010		Authorized by:	
Revised Date: July 25, 2013		Deputy Minister	

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 To define the mandate of Child Protection Services.

2.0 POLICY STATEMENT

2.1 All children are entitled to protection from abuse and neglect, to be nurtured throughout their dependent years and to have their physical, emotional, social, and safety needs met. The primary responsibility for meeting the needs, protecting the rights and ensuring the safety of children rests with parents and families. The Director of Child Protection will make every effort to address Child Protection concerns through least intrusive measures. Notwithstanding the rights of parents, the ultimate authority of the Director of Child Protection pursuant to the *Child Protection Act* is to provide for the safety, security and protection of children from parental harm.

2.2 The Director of Child Protection recognizes and respects the significant role of the extended family and support persons, the community, and the cultural, linguistic, and spiritual heritage in the life of a child. Specifically, the Director of Child Protection respects the fundamental interests of Aboriginal communities in the life and well-being of Aboriginal children.

2.3 Children need to be active participants in decision-making as appropriate to their age and stage of development. The Director of Child Protection has the responsibility to ensure that the voices of children in need of protection are heard and all decisions are in their best interests.

2.4 Every child has the right to belonging and permanency and all efforts will be made to sustain the family and the significant relationships of the child. If it is not possible to do so, the Director of Child Protection must be diligent in planning for the child's future stability in a permanent family environment.

2.5 The best outcomes for children in need of protection and their families occur when the Director of Child Protection is a part of a larger community partnership responding to the needs of children whereby the protection of children is a mutual and collaborative goal.

HISTORY:

July 25, 2013 - Editorial and format changes