

<b>Child Protection Act R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. C-5.1</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Children in Care</b>	
	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Photographs and Mementos</b>	<b>Policy # 2.4</b>
<b>Effective Date: February 1, 2013</b>		<b>Authorized by: Carol Anne Duffy</b>	
<b>Revised Date: July 18, 2013</b>		<b>Deputy Minister</b>	

## **1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The Director of Child Protection is responsible to ensure the identity of children in care is only disclosed in accordance with the *Child Protection Act*.

## **2.0 POLICY STATEMENT**

- 2.1 The Director of Child Protection has an obligation to ensure the life of a child in care is recorded through photographs and mementos to be preserved and made available for the child.
- 2.2 The Director of Child Protection supports and promotes opportunities for caregivers and children in care to record and preserve childhood experiences on behalf of the child.
- 2.3 Child Protection Social Workers will work with caregivers to collect and preserve photographs and mementos for children during their time in care.
- 2.4 Child Protection Social Workers will work with caregivers to create a Lifebook for each child in permanent care.
- 2.5 Publication of photos / videos of children in care which do not identify the child as a child in the care of the Director of Child Protection may be permitted unless potential risk to the child exists.
- 2.6 The Child Protection Social Worker, in consultation with the Child Protection Supervisor, will determine if publication of photos / videos of children in care which do not identify the child as a child in the care of the Director of Child Protection pose potential risk to the child. Consideration will be given to the intended distribution of the publication, nature of child's relationship with birth family, child's comfort level with publication, child's wishes, or any other extenuating circumstance which may have the potential to impact the safety and well being of the child. This decision must be documented on the child's file.

- 2.7 Release and/or publication identifying a child as a child in care by photo, video, print, internet, or any other medium for any purpose is prohibited except as approved by the Director of Child Protection.
- 2.8 Requests for release and/or publication identifying a child as a child in care by photo, video, print, internet, or any other medium for any purpose must be discussed with the Child Protection Supervisor. In circumstances involving children in temporary custody and guardianship, the Child Protection Social Worker will discuss the request with the child's parent and their wishes will be considered. If release and / or publication identifying a child in care is supported by the Child Protection Supervisor, the Child Protection Supervisor will forward the request to the Director of Child Protection and the Provincial Coordinator of Child Protection Services will be copied to requests regarding children in temporary custody and guardianship. The Director of Child Protection will make a determination and provide direction on the release and/or publication.
- 2.9 Child Protection Social Workers shall advise caregivers of the importance of ensuring photographs and mementos are collected for children in care.
- 2.10 Child Protection Social Workers and caregivers will ensure there are photos and mementos of children in care:
- for all special celebrations such as birthdays, holidays, milestones, report cards, graduation, certificates of achievement, awards, badges, etc; and,
  - to include family members and family events, foster parents and residential homes, school and community events, and other significant people and events in the life of the child.
- 2.11 Photos and mementos are considered the child's possession and follow the child in the event of placement changes and will be provided to the child upon termination of care. In situations where it is not feasible or appropriate to provide to the child at time of termination of care, the photos and mementos will be placed on the child's file to be provided to the child at a later date.
- 2.12 Photos and mementos shall become part of the Lifebook for children in permanent care.

### **3.0 REFERENCES**

---

#### **HISTORY:**

July 18, 2013 - Editorial and format changes