

# FAQ

## Frequently Asked Questions about -----Foster Parent Coordinators-----

### What do Foster Parent Coordinators Do?

We provide:

- On-going consultation and networking services to foster parents
- Newsletters and email news updates
- Information on Ministry policy
- Answers to general practice questions about fostering
- Support to foster parents experiencing difficult foster care situations
- Support/Information for foster parents going through the complaints process
- Library/Resource materials
- Liaison with MCFD/ CLBC staff on common caregiver concerns or misunderstandings
- Assistance with recruitment and training of new foster homes
- Promotion and assistance with the development of caregiver support groups
- Assessment of training needs and provision of relevant training opportunities

### What is meant by support?

Support to foster homes comes in a variety of ways. We provide education, information, liaison with MCFD, communication, supportive listening and problem solving. We try to tailor our support to meet the needs of the fostering community.

### Who Do Foster Parent Coordinators Work for?

Coordinators in our area are employed by the Okanagan Foster Parents Association (OFPA). OFPA has a contract with MCFD and CLBC to provide support to foster parents in the Okanagan, Similkameen and Shuswap areas. In other parts of BC, similar services are provided under a variety of different names.

### Who are the Foster Parent Coordinators?

South Okanagan: Betty Bogyo 250-488-0561 [SOKsupport@okfosterparents.ca](mailto:SOKsupport@okfosterparents.ca)

Central Okanagan: Joan Kirkbride 250-868-9285 [COKsupport@okfosterparents.ca](mailto:COKsupport@okfosterparents.ca)

North Okanagan: Noelle Typusiak 250-558-0939 [NOKsupport@okfosterparents.ca](mailto:NOKsupport@okfosterparents.ca)

Shuswap: \_\_\_\_\_ [shuswapsupport@okfosterparents.ca](mailto:shuswapsupport@okfosterparents.ca)

## Confidentiality Expectations from Coordinator

Okanagan Foster Parents Association has a legal and ethical responsibility to the foster parents it serves. Every effort is made to preserve the rights and privacy of all foster parents. Coordinators will not discuss nor disclose information acquired during the course of their work except to authorized persons with permission of the foster parent or as outlined below. Disclosure of information must be within the parameters of the Child, Family and Community Services Act and the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Confidentiality expectations extend beyond the term of employment with the organization.

- All our services are voluntary and confidential
- All personal information provided to us is kept confidential and private
- Expectations of privacy are given high priority except where superseded by a legal duty to report
- We will not release any information about you to anyone unless you sign a release of information report form

### Limits to confidentiality

1. In a case where child abuse or neglect, and in cases of current or past sexual abuse in which the offender may have present access to minor-aged children, we must, by law, contact the Ministry of Children and Family Development.
2. When an individual states they intend to hurt themselves or commit suicide, we have a duty to involve necessary emergency services.
3. When an individual states they intend to hurt another person or their actions or knowledge may potentially harm others- we have a duty to notify the appropriate police authority.
4. By law upon subpoena, to testify in court at the discretion of the judge.