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## **Residential Placement Advisory Committee (Toronto RPAC)**

RPAC was created to develop a placement procedure that focuses on the individual needs of each child and to involve the child and parents/guardians in a regular review process. RPAC is part of the children's safeguard system and as such can play an important role in 'speaking' about the issues that children in care sometimes can face.

Primarily RPAC reviews consider whether the residential placement is appropriate for the child or youth in the circumstances. Placement Reviews are a child's right; children should be at the centre of the process. RPAC listens to the child or youth's views and wishes, given due weight in accordance with age and maturity, when conducting a review of their residential placement.

RPAC operates across the Province as mandated by the CYFSA, Sections 62 to 66. There are individual RPAC committees in each region. Skylark Children, Youth & Families operate RPAC for Toronto region on behalf of the Ministry of Children, Community & Social Services. In other words regardless of where the residential placement is located, if the child/youth is from Toronto, then Toronto RPAC conducts the review. The Toronto RPAC committee has one part-time Coordinator and a volunteer Citizen Chairperson. Other members are included on an as needed basis.

RPAC considers the following and produces a report with recommendations based on the information gathered during the course of each review:

- Did the youth's presenting needs exceed what community based services and supports could provide before residential placement was considered an option
- Placement location, environment, privacy
- Cultural, Religious, and identity needs are recognized and respected
- First Nations, Inuit or Métis cultures, heritages & traditions
- Special dietary accommodations; enjoyment of meals and snacks
- Staffing supports; supervision
- Relationships with staff and peers
- Access to specialized supports and resources
- Special needs; medical needs; medication
- Access to on-site or community school program
- Family involvement
- After School and weekend recreation including access and connection to community
- Privacy
- Individual and family goals
- Length of time in placement and anticipated discharge plans
- RPAC can advise youth, parents and service providers as to the availability and appropriateness of alternative services and programs if requested

It is the residential service provider's role \*(all types of placements including Group, Foster Care, Kinship) to notify each child/youth and parent/guardian of the RPAC process and their right to participate. Enclosed is a supply of RPAC postcards to help with this process.

There are different types of reviews:

- 1) If a placement is expected to last 90 days or more, following the CYFSA legislation, every residential provider, other than a maternity home, licensed for 10 or more children/youth in an individual home or group of buildings is to advise RPAC of the admission on or before the admission. As described in the legislation RPAC should conduct the initial review within the first 45 days of the admission and every 9 months while the residential placement continues. When a placement, originally determined to be less than 90 days, extends please inform RPAC.
- 2) Any child, youth (to age 18) or individual on their behalf can request a review in any size or type of placement if they object to a proposed or existing placement as not appropriate to meet their needs.
- 3) Additionally, the Ministry can request that RPAC conduct a review.
- 4) The RPAC may conduct additional reviews based on their own discretion to follow up on recommendations.

When RPAC is notified of a new admission or an objection to placement we request general social history/background information including Plan of Care and assessment reports and to schedule the review. The case manager arranges for consents. RPAC will arrange to meet the child/youth directly and tour the placement (distance and weather permitting). Alternatively, if the youth agrees a short telephone conversation will be scheduled regarding how their placement is going and if they have concerns. We will talk with and listen to the views of parents/guardians and key workers involved to provide unbiased recommendations ensuring that the views of the child/youth are identified. When appropriate we may involve other neutral service provider professionals to take part in the review. When appropriate particularly for reviews regarding an Objection to Placement a group review meeting may be coordinated.

A review letter is then prepared and provided to the youth, parent/guardian, residential provider, involved workers and a copy sent to the Ministry. Children and Youth have the option of contacting the Child & Family Review Board (CFSRB) if they disagree with the RPAC recommendations.

Please email [RPAC@Skylarkyouth.org](mailto:RPAC@Skylarkyouth.org) to request the electronic versions of the Admissions Notice and/or Objection to Placement Notice. Please update your records with our new confidential FAX number 416-352-5761.

If you have any questions please contact us via email or phone 416-482-0081, extension 233.

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