

Overview of Agreements

BACKGROUND

Four new agreement types have been added to the Child and Family Services Act. These agreements provide CFS agencies with more out of court options and new ways to work with and preserve families when there are concerns. Agreements can support children in their home with their parents, in a kinship arrangement or under Customary Care. Parents keep guardianship and can actively be involved in planning for their children. These agreements support the National Standards that create placement priorities for Indigenous children and families. CFS agencies will collaborate with their Nations to develop their own standards and policy for how these Agreements are used.

With Parents

Family Support

- Children remain in their home
- This is an agreement to provide supports that meet the needs of a child and their family so that children can stay at home or return home

With Family/Kin

Kinship Care

- Children live with a kinship caregiver
- This is an agreement between the parent, the caregiver, and an agency
- Providing care within the child's community with the participation of the family
- Caregiver has a family connection or a significant relationship with the child or the parent

With Community Member

Customary Care

- Children live with a customary caregiver
- This is an agreement between the parent, the caregiver, and an agency
- Reflects the unique customs of the child's Nation and recognizes the cultural identity of Indigenous children
- Nation-led

Licensed Placement

Voluntary Care

- Children live in a foster or group home
- This is an agreement between the parent and an agency
- Provides care to a child outside the child's home