

POLICY FORM: TEMPLATE TO SHARE

Policy Area: Nursing Practice	Subject:
Title of Policy: Child in Need	Number:
Effective Date: 01 April 2015	Page Number:
Approved Date: Revision Date:	Approved by:
<p>1. Rationale or background to policy:</p> <p>In the community a nurse may be presented with a situation where there is a child in need identified, either by a community member or by the health care staff. In these situations it is important to understand the legislation and the requirements of health professionals to manage the situation in a sensitive way. Understanding that the child’s safety is a priority</p> <p>2. Policy Statement:</p> <p>This policy supports Alberta First Nations Nursing to follow Federal and Provincial Legislation and the Regional Operating Procedure for the detecting, reporting, investigating, and management of a child in need. To assure that <i>“any person who has reasonable and probable ground to believe and believes that a child is in need of protective services shall forthwith report the matter to a director.¹”</i> To protect the child and protect the staff from negligence of duty.</p> <p>3. Procedures:</p> <p>Alberta First Nations Nursing requires that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nurses should be aware of the provincial and national guidelines for the reporting, investigation, detection and management of children in need.• Nurses should be aware of their responsibilities for the child and advocate on their behalf.• Nurses can contact the Regional Nurse Manager for support and further information. <p>According to the Province of Alberta, <i>Child, Youth & Family Enhancement Act</i>, [Mar 2009] a child is in need of protective services if there are reasonable and probable grounds to believe that the survival, security or development of the child is endangered because of any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A child has been abandoned or lost;• The guardian of the child is dead and the child has no other guardian;	

- The child is neglected by the guardian;
- The child has been and there is substantial risk that the child will be physically injured or sexually abused by the guardian of the child;
- The guardian of the child is unable or unwilling to protect the child from physical injury or sexual abuse;
- The child has been emotionally injured by the guardian of the child;
- The guardian of the child is unable or unwilling to protect the child from emotional injury;
- The guardian of the child has subjected the child to or is unable or unwilling to protect the child from cruel and unusual treatment or punishment;

References

Province of Alberta (2009). Child, Youth & Family Enhancement Act Chapter c-12, Queens Printer, Edmonton; revisions SA2008c31 (Mar 2009).
Government of Alberta (2005). Responding to Child Abuse: A Handbook, Queens Printer, Edmonton.