

# What do children/youth and parents/ guardians need to know about the role of RPAC?

## Who attends the RPAC?

Committee members include a Contact Brant Resource Coordinator (chair of RPAC), a local child/youth Service Provider, an Informed Community Citizen volunteer, a Ministry of Children Community and Social Services representative, and where the child/youth has Indigenous heritage, a local Indigenous Service Provider or Band Representative.

The child/youth, their family, and the agency providing the residential placement are asked to attend.

The placing agency must attend (e.g., child welfare, Complex Needs Placement Coordination, etc.).

## When do reviews take place?

- Within 45 days of the child/youth moving into a residential home supporting 10 or more children/youth, and
- Every 9 months thereafter, until the child or youth moves or turns 18;
- Anytime a child or youth objects to a proposed or current placement;
- Anytime a child or youth requests a review;
- Anytime RPAC deems they need to re-review a placement.

## Can a review be completed if consent is not provided?

Consent is not required to conduct a review – reviews must occur following legislative requirements.

Consent is required for the release of records to RPAC; without the release of records, the review will not be thorough (only non-identifying information).

## What are the outcomes of a review? RPAC will make recommendations about the suitability and appropriateness of the residential program:

- Is the residential treatment program appropriate and likely to benefit the child/youth?
- Does the program preserve the child/youth's cultural identity, especially where the child is Indigenous?
- Would a less restrictive / intensive service be more appropriate?
- Is there a need to explore / identify alternative service(s)?
- What follow up is required by the placing agency/community service coordinator?

Children and youth have the option of contacting the Child & Family Review Board (CFSRB) if they disagree with the RPAC's recommendations.

**Can a parent/guardian or child/youth contact RPAC directly?**

- Yes, it is your right!
- If you believe the appropriateness of the child's foster or group home placement of any size is in question, you have the right to request a review.

**Contact information:**

- Call Contact Brant 519-758-8228 or email [information@contactbrant.net](mailto:information@contactbrant.net)
- Contact Brant is located at 643 Park Road North, Brantford, ON, N3T 5L8.
- Call or email anytime. A Resource Coordinator will contact you within one business day.