

Dakota Ojibway Child & Family Services

Administration Office: Forest Hills - Swan Lake 7A
Box 310, Carberry, Manitoba R0K 0H0
Ph: 1-204-834-2323 Fax: 1-204-834-2306
Toll Free: 1-877-508-8289



AGENCY PROGRAMS

FOSTER CARE

If it becomes necessary to remove a child from their home, DOCFS has a responsibility to ensure that they are placed in a home that provides a safe, loving and culturally appropriate environment. The Agency strongly encourages the use of extended family placements, community placements that are understanding of the cultural backgrounds of the child. Foster families may provide care for a child for a period of days, weeks, months and sometimes years, depending upon each circumstance. Foster care is a vital program within the Agency and more information can be found on the Foster Care pamphlet.

ADOPTION/GUARDIANSHIP

DOCFS is committed to placing those children, whom they have permanent guardianship of, in placements that will preserve the child's cultural identity and can provide stability, security and most importantly, love.

POST-ADOPTION/REPATRIATION

The Agency also offers post-adoption services to adopted adults and their birth families. In addition, the Agency has a repatriation program/policy which may provide assistance to those individuals who may wish to reconnect or return to their families or communities.

Sub Offices:

COMMUNITIES

Birdtail Sioux DOCFS

General Delivery, Beulah, MB R0M 0B0
PH: 204-568-4559 Toll Free: 1-866-839-5248

Canupawakpa DOCFS

Box 2169, Virden, MB R0M 2C0
PH: 204-854-2920 Toll Free: 1-866-839-5283

Roseau River DOCFS

Box 205, Ginew, MB R0A 2R0
PH: 204-427-2770 Toll Free: 1-866-839-5313

Swan Lake DOCFS

Box 370, Swan Lake, MB R0G 2S0
PH: 204-836-2503 Toll Free: 1-866-839-5335

Dakota Plains

Box 1115, Portage La Prairie, MB R1N 3C5
PH: 204-252-2877 Toll Free: 1-866-220-7657

Dakota Tipi

2010 Dakota Dr, Dakota Tipi R1N 3X6
PH: 204-856-0428 Toll Free: 1-866-357-4416

URBAN

Brandon DOCFS

702 Douglas St., Brandon, MB R7A 7B2
PH: 204-729-3650 Toll Free: 1-855-472-6825

Portage la Prairie DOCFS

102 Saskatchewan Avenue E, Portage La Prairie, MB R1N 0L1
PH: 204-856-5570 Toll Free: 1-866-839-5344

Winnipeg DOCFS

1150 Fife Street, Winnipeg, MB R2X 2Z6
PH: 204-988-9230 Toll Free: 1-866-353-9323



your *children*...

your *family*...

your *plan*...

we can *help*.

Taking Care Of Our Own

www.docfs.org



INTRODUCTION

Dakota Ojibway Child and Family Services Inc. (DOCFS) was established to provide child and family services to the seven (7) First Nations in Southern Manitoba. The task of protecting children and assisting families has been entrusted to DOCFS by the Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council communities. The Agency was legally mandated on July 1, 1981 by the Province of Manitoba under the Child and Family Services Act and continues to develop community based programming.

On April 8, 2004, DOCFS had its mandate extended to enable them to deliver a service to the DOTC communities' membership anywhere within the Province of Manitoba. With this extended mandate and responsibility, DOCFS has opened offices in the City of Brandon, the City of Portage la Prairie and the City of Winnipeg to offer a service to those people who live outside of the First Nation Communities.

The intent of the Agency has been and continues to be the provision of service which recognizes traditional First Nation values and customs and is compatible to the needs of the community in which they reside. DOCFS' focus is to protect children and to strengthen the capacity of families and communities to resolve their own problems and prevent the circumstances that lead to the apprehension of children. To ensure this occurs, Local Child and Family Service Committees comprised of community members have been established to provide advice and support to the workers. The committees have

been in place within the seven First Nation Communities since the Agency began and we encourage our urban offices to utilize their expertise.

AGENCY OBJECTIVES

The objectives of DOCFS are compatible to those of all Child and Family Service Agencies in the Province of Manitoba with an emphasis on First Nation values.

- To protect children from abuse, neglect and exploitation
- To strengthen and unify families by providing services that are compatible to the needs of the family and the community in which they reside.
- To place children in the Agency's care in a loving environment with extended family, with families in their own community or within other First Nation families.

AGENCY PROGRAMS

CHILD PROTECTION

DOCFS is legally obligated to investigate families when they have reason to believe that a child is in need of protection due to neglect, abuse, abandonment or exploitation. Where an allegation of abuse is made, investigations are done in cooperation with the police. Where a child is found to be in need of protection, the agency will remove the child to a place of safety until the family can be safely reunited. If it is deemed necessary that a child remain in the Agency's care after

the initial assessment or investigation is complete, the child will be placed in foster care for the time required.

FAMILY WELLNESS

DOCFS provides support and assistance to families who are experiencing difficulties. The Agency provides counselling to families and helps them to find effective solutions to the problems they are encountering. Where appropriate, the agency may refer to other resources (ie. Elders, Psychologists) and place Homemakers, Parent Aides, Family Support Workers or use daycare services to maintain the family unit.

PREVENTION SERVICES

The Agency does not receive significant funding for prevention services. However, DOCFS believes it is necessary to work with families to prevent the apprehension of children and promote the family unit. There are projects that are occurring in the individual offices that address family disruption. As well, referrals are to other culturally appropriate resources to assist families.

MINOR PARENTS

Adolescent parents, who are expecting a child, face many special problems. They may be confused about their alternatives and lack the skills necessary to parent a child. DOCFS ensures these minor parents receive the necessary counseling and support. The Agency also promotes responsible permanent planning for the child of minor parents.