

### ANYONE CAN CONTACT US

Anyone can contact the OCA if they have concerns about the services a young person is receiving or not receiving from a child and family services agency. Many young people contact us themselves.

### CONTACT

Contact us to learn more or to arrange a presentation to your group or organization.

#### Office of the Children's Advocate

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#### Find us here too:

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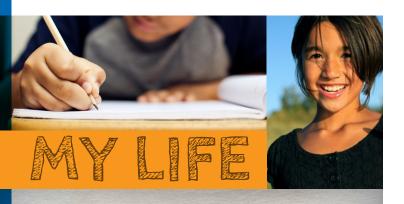




# ADVOCACY BEGINS BY LISTENING TO THE THAT'S SELDOM HEARD



# WE'RE HERE TO MAKE SURE THE VOICES OF CHILDREN ARE HEARD AND CONSIDERED IN THE DECISIONS MADE ABOUT THEIR LIVES



The Office of the Children's Advocate (OCA) is an independent office of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly.

We represent the rights, interests and viewpoints of children and youth throughout Manitoba who are receiving, or entitled to be receiving, services under *The Child and* Family Services Act and *The Adoption Act*.

We do this by advocating directly with children and youth and by reviewing services after the death of any young person who received child welfare services within the preceding year.



- · Listen to your concerns.
- Provide information about the child and family services and adoption system in Manitoba.
- Help you say what you want to say to child welfare agencies.
- If you are a young person, help you take part in the decisions that affect your life.
- If you're calling on behalf of a young person, we can help you sort through the concern.
- Make recommendations to child welfare agencies and government.



- Make decisions about children in care.
- Become involved in private custody and access matters.
- Provide child protection services.
- · Act as legal counsel for children.

## SPECIAL INVESTIGATION REVIEWS

When a child who dies in Manitoba has received child welfare services within one year of his or her death, the OCA carries out a Special Investigation Review (SIR). The review identifies ways that the publicly funded programs and services that were involved may be improved to enhance the safety and well-being of children.

Once the review is complete, we submit a report outlining our findings and recommendations to the minister responsible for *The Child and Family Services Act*, the Manitoba Ombudsman, and the Chief Medical Examiner. A summary of recommendations is also available to the public through the OCA's annual report.

