

A close-up photograph of a woman with short dark hair, wearing a brown and black striped short-sleeved shirt, smiling warmly as she holds a baby. The baby is wearing a blue patterned top and a white tutu. The woman is looking down at the baby with a joyful expression. The background is softly blurred.

Grandparents Parenting



**Community Legal
Information**
Empowerment Through Knowledge

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Introduction




This publication is for grandparents who act as parents on PEI. It explains how family law impacts your relationship with your grandchild.

Family law issues can be stressful. If you need to speak with someone, reach out to a friend, a mental health professional, or the Island Helpline. For the Island Helpline, call 1-800-218-2885.

About Us

Community Legal Information is a registered charity. We provide Prince Edward Island residents with plain-language legal information and low-cost lawyer referrals.

Community Legal Information

-  www.legalinfopei.ca
-  info@legalinfopei.ca
-  902-892-0853; 1-800-240-9798 (toll-free)



The information in this publication is not legal advice and does not replace guidance from a lawyer.

Community Legal
Information





Parenting and Contact

Who is a parent?

The word 'parent' may mean:

- A mother.
- A father.
- A person who acts as a parent to the child.

Parents make decisions like:

- Where the child lives.
- Who makes major decisions for the child.
- How much time the child spends with each parent.

A parent must financially support their child as long as the child is dependent. A parent cannot ignore or deny this responsibility.

What are parenting time and decision-making responsibility?

Parenting time is the time a child spends in the care of a parent. **Decision-making responsibility** means making major decisions for a child. For example, about the child's health, education, or culture.

In 2021, there were changes to the law about parenting. A parent's responsibilities used to be called "custody" and "access." Now, these responsibilities are called decision-making responsibility and parenting time.

What is contact?

Contact is when a person who is not the child's parent spends time with the child. For example, contact may include visits with the child, video chats, telephone calls, or letters.

Usually, a parent must not stop their child from spending time with people who are important in the child's life. This includes family or friends the parent does not get along with. The exception is if the parent has concerns about the child's safety or well-being.

What if I am not a parent, but I play an important role in the child's life?

You can take steps to protect the child's relationship with you. Legal documents can make things easier in the future.

Examples of legal documents include parenting agreements, contact orders, parenting orders, and adoption orders. This publication explains what these documents are and how to get them.

Dispute Resolution

What is dispute resolution?

Dispute resolution means resolving conflict outside of court. The law says you must try to resolve family law issues with dispute resolution before going to court. Dispute resolution is usually less expensive and stressful than going to court.

Types of dispute resolution include:

- **Negotiation** is communicating to try to reach an agreement. For example, you could talk to the parent of your grandchild and agree that you will have time with your grandchild once a week. Or, you may agree to a phone call schedule.
- **Mediation** is when you, the other person, and a mediator try to resolve disagreements. The mediator is neutral and helps you communicate with each other to resolve the conflict.
- **Collaborative Practice** is when you negotiate with the other person with support from collaborative practice lawyers and sometimes other support professionals (for example, financial or mental health professionals). Everyone must agree to resolve the issues without going to court.

What is a parenting agreement?

A **parenting agreement** is a contract that explains each parent's role and responsibilities. This is also called a parenting plan.

A parenting agreement is legally binding if it is:

- Written down.
- Dated.
- Signed by each person in front of a witness.
- Signed by the witness.

The witness does not need to know what the agreement says. They are there to confirm that everyone signed the legal agreement willingly without being pressured. An agreement is only valid if it is signed willingly.

A parenting agreement can be simple or detailed. Think about what is best for the child now, and what they may need later. You may want to plan to review the agreement and make changes if needed (for example, every year).

Can I be in a parenting agreement if I am not the child's parent?

Yes, you can be in a parenting agreement even if you are not a parent. You can be in a parenting agreement with the child's legal parents. You must follow the rules above.

A parenting agreement may include information about your role for the child. For example, the agreement could say that you will make decisions about the child's health and education or that the child will always sleep at your home.







Do I need a lawyer to make a parenting agreement?

No, you do not need a lawyer to make a parenting agreement. But it is always a good idea to get advice from a lawyer before signing a legal document.

What free resources can help me with mediation?

Child-Focused Parenting Plan Mediation


 www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/justice-and-public-safety/child-focused-parenting-plan-mediation

 902-368-6928

 fcco@gov.pe.ca

The Family Law Centre offers free mediation for parenting issues. Child-Focused Parenting Plan Mediation helps parents make an agreement about parenting time and decision-making responsibility.

Mi'kmaq Family PRIDE Program

 902-436-5101; 1-877-884-0808 (toll-free)

The Mi'kmaq Family PRIDE Program provides Family Group Conferencing to Indigenous people on reserve. This program facilitates shared decision-making meetings for families. At a conference, friends and family are invited to come together to develop a plan, help solve problems, and make sure that the child and their family have the care and support they need.

Child-Focused Parenting Plan Mediation



Mi'kmaq Family PRIDE Program



Parenting Orders and Contact Orders

A **court order** is a document from the court that states a judge's decisions and rules that must be followed. A judge makes a court order after a person applies to the court. Sometimes, applying to the court is your only choice. For example, if you tried other options without success.



A legal issue can be resolved at any point during a legal proceeding. It does not have to go to court.

What is a parenting order?

A **parenting order** is a court order about decision-making responsibility and/or parenting time. You must apply to the court to ask for a parenting order. A parenting order:

- Includes rules the family must follow.
- Can be temporary or permanent.

Can I apply for a parenting order if I am not the parent?

Yes. According to the *Children's Law Act*, a person other than the child's parent can apply for parenting time or decision-making responsibility.

You may apply for parenting time or decision-making responsibility if you:

- Stand in the place of a parent (meaning that you have acted as a parent to the child), or
- Intend to stand in the place of a parent to the child.

What does a judge consider when making a decision that affects a child?

A judge only considers the best interests of the child when making a decision that affects the child. What the judge thinks is best for the child may be different from what you think is best.

The judge will consider:

- The child's safety, needs, and well-being.
- The child's relationships with their parents, siblings, grandparents, and other important people in their life.
- The child's views and preferences, when appropriate.
- The child's culture, language, religion, and spirituality.
- Each parent's willingness to support the child's relationship with the other parent.
- Each person's willingness to prioritize the best interest of the child.
- If family violence is present.

It is important for the judge to know:

- Who has cared for the child in the past and the child's relationship with that caregiver.
- What plans the person applying for an order has for the child.

A judge's decision is not affected by:

- Age.
- Income.
- If a person is named on the birth certificate or not.

Do biological parents have rights?

The best interests of the child are the only consideration for family law issues that affect children. The judge may consider a person's biological connection with a child after the best interests of the child are considered.

Will the parenting order consider the child's preferences?

The judge decides when it is appropriate to consider the child's wishes. If necessary, the judge will order that a family court clinician:

- Interview your child and prepare a Views of the Child Report. A **Views of the Child Report** shares a child's preferences about one or two specific topics.
- Complete a Parenting Arrangement Assessment. A **Parenting Arrangement Assessment** (previously called a home study) gives the court evidence about the parenting situation and best interests of the child. The Parenting Arrangement Assessment may also recommend a parenting plan. You must cooperate with an assessment if it is ordered.

What is a contact order?

A **contact order** is a court order that allows a person who is not the child's parent to have contact with the child. Contact orders may have the same conditions as parenting orders, such as that the child cannot be relocated.





Who can apply for a contact order?

Anyone other than a parent can ask for a contact order. Applying for a contact order is a legal process. A judge decides whether to make the contact order or not.

The judge bases their decision on the best interests of the child. See page 10 for more information.

What if we make an agreement before there is an order?

If you reach an agreement with the child's parents during the court process, you do not have to continue with the court process. But, you may still have to show the agreement to a judge for approval.

How do I go to family court without a lawyer?

It may be helpful to read our publication *How to Go to Family Court Without a Lawyer*. The publication will help you:

- Understand family law processes.
- Get organized for family court.
- Present your case well.

I have a court order. Can I make an application to change it?




As the family's needs change, you can apply to the court to change a parenting order or contact order. The judge's only consideration when changing an order are the child's best interests.

Can a child have a lawyer?

In high-conflict family law situations, your child may qualify to be represented by the Children's Lawyer. The Office of the Children's Lawyer represents the child and their best interests in disputes about parenting time, decision-making responsibility, and contact.

Contact the Office of the Children's Lawyer for more information.

Office of the Children's Lawyer

-  princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/childrens-lawyer-0
-  OCL@gov.pe.ca
-  902-368-4842

**Office of the
Children's Lawyer**



Adoption

What is adoption?

Adoption is a legal process that makes a new parent-child relationship. If you adopt your grandchild, they are legally your child and you are their parent.

The former parents of the child do not have parenting responsibilities after adoption.

What are the types of adoption?

The *Adoption Act* states that adoptions can only be arranged in one of three ways:

- Through the Director of Child Protection either via the *Child Protection Act* or the *Adoption Act*.
- Through a private adoption licensed by the Director of Child Protection.
- By a permit issued directly to the birth parent(s) by the Director of Child Protection for placement with relatives.

Relative adoption is when a person adopts a child related to them.

What are the relative adoption steps?

Application for a Permit

Birth parents apply to the Director of Child Protection for a permit to plan their child's adoption by a relative. If you want to adopt your grandchild, talk to the child's parents. Only the birth parents can apply and consent.

Counselling

Birth parents must do counselling with an authorized social worker. The social worker makes sure that the parents:

- Understand their options.
- Are seeking an adoption freely.
- Understand what making a plan of adoption means.

Risk Assessment

The adoptive family must meet with an authorized social worker too. The social worker must be different than the one who counsels the birth parents. This social worker completes a risk assessment of the family. The risk assessment includes:

- An assessment of the family's ability to raise a child.
- A criminal record check.
- A child protection record check.
- A medical check.

If no concerns are identified, the adoption continues. The birth parents sign a *Consent to Adoption* form. You and the birth parents sign a guardianship agreement. You must hire a lawyer to help with adoption paperwork.





Pre-hearing Study

An authorized social worker completes a pre-hearing study. A **pre-hearing study** gives the judge information about the child's current situation and the adoptive family's ability to provide for the child's best interests now and in the future.

It is okay to use the same social worker for the risk assessment and the pre-hearing study. The pre-hearing study is given to the court before the hearing.

Hearing

A hearing with a judge is required to complete an adoption. The judge's priority is the best interests of the child.

An **adoption order** is a court order from a judge that legally completes an adoption.




Once the adoption is legally complete, the adoptive family is treated as any other PEI family.

What if the child is Indigenous?

If the child is Indigenous, a representative of their First Nation may be consulted about the adoption.

The court recognizes that it is in the best interests of the child to connect with their culture. If you adopt an Indigenous child, the court may ask you to help them access their culture (even if you are not Indigenous).

Adoption & Post-Adoption Services

-  www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/social-development-and-housing/adoption
-  adoption@gov.pe.ca
-  902-368-6511

Adoption



Post-Adoption Services



Relocation

What is relocation?

Relocation is a move that will have a significant impact on a child's relationship with a person who has parenting time, decision-making responsibility, or contact order. Relocation includes a change in residence of the child, or a person with parenting time or decision-making responsibility.

What if I move?

You may have to give notice to people with parenting time, decision-making responsibility, or contact.

If you are a parent, you must:

- Give written notice for a short-distance move. Include the date of the move, new address, and new contact information. There is no specific form required.
- Use court form *Notice of Relocation* for a long-distance move. You must give 60 days' notice before the move.

If you have a contact order, you must:

- Give written notice for a move that will not have a significant impact on your relationship with the child.
- Use court form *Notice of Change in Place of Residence: Person with Contact*, if the move will have a significant impact on your relationship with the child.

Notice of Relocation

 www.justice.gc.ca/eng/fl-df/divorce/nrf-fad.html

Notice of Relocation



Finances

What is child support?

Child support is the financial duty a parent has to a dependent child. A parent must financially support any dependent children. A person who acts as a parent to a child, such as a relative or step-parent, may be required to receive or pay child support.



Child support and parenting time are separate issues. For example, a parent may pay child support and not have parenting time or have parenting time and not pay child support.

How is child support calculated?

The Federal Child Support Guidelines (the Guidelines) and other rules are used to decide:

- Who pays child support.
- How much child support must be paid.
- When payments are made and for how long.

A **child support agreement** is a contract that outlines parents' financial contributions. A child support agreement should follow the Federal Child Support Guidelines.

A **child support order** is a court order about child support. A judge usually follows the Federal Child Support Guidelines when making a child support order.

Does child support impact income tax?

Child support cannot be claimed as a deduction by the person paying it. Child support is not declared as income by the person receiving it.

How can I get more information about child support?

Child Support Guidelines Officers

✉ csso@gov.pe.ca

☎ 902-368-6220

Child Support Guidelines Officers can give you information about child support, court forms, and the court process if you do not have a lawyer to help you. They can also be a helpful resource if you are applying for a child support order or a change to an order.

Recalculation Officers

✉ csso@gov.pe.ca

☎ 902-368-4109

Recalculation Officers provide free annual recalculation for eligible child support agreements and orders.

Maintenance Enforcement

✉ mep@gov.pe.ca

☎ 902-894-0383

Maintenance Enforcement takes steps to enforce support orders and agreements when they are not paid.



Child Support Guidelines Officers



Recalculation Officers



Maintenance Enforcement





Are there other financial supports?

Here are some other financial supports to look into:

- The Canada Child Benefit (CCB) is a tax-free monthly payment to help eligible families with the cost of raising a child under 18.
- The Canada Pension Plan (CPP) offers various benefits for children under 25. A child whose parents have died or live with disabilities may be entitled to benefits. Benefits can be retroactive.
- You may be able to use the “child-rearing provision” to increase your Canada Pension Plan (CPP) benefits.
- Consider getting your taxes done at a free tax clinic to save money.
- A Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) is a good way to save for education after high school. Canada Education Savings Grant (CESG) is a grant based on the amount contributed to an RESP for a child and the family income. The Canada Learning Bond (CLB) is money that the Government adds to an RESP for children from low-income families.

For more information, speak with a financial advisor.

Child Protection

What is Child Protection Services (CPS)?

Child Protection Services (CPS) is part of the PEI government that protects children from abuse and neglect.

PEI's legislation gives CPS the authority to intervene when anyone younger than 18 has been harmed or is at risk of being harmed.

What if I suspect abuse or neglect?

You must report to CPS if you suspect a child is being neglected or abused. You must also report to CPS if you suspect a child is witnessing family violence at home.

What does CPS do after a report?

CPS assesses all reports and decides if an investigation is required. During an investigation, a CPS social worker meets with and interviews the child and the parent(s).

Child Protection Services

-  www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/social-development-and-housing/child-protection
-  902-368-6657; 1-877-341-3101 (daytime)
-  902-368-6868; 1-800-341-6868 (after hours)

**Child Protection
Services**



Does an investigation mean the child will be removed from a parent's care?

No, an investigation does not mean the child will be removed from a parent's care.

PEI's legislation requires CPS to work with parents to reduce risk so that families can stay together. But, sometimes CPS decides an out-of-home plan is needed to keep a child safe.

What if CPS finds a child needs protection from their parent?

The worker may offer the parent an opportunity to make a safety plan for the child.

The parent may suggest a person to provide a safe home for the child during or after the investigation. If CPS has reason to believe the suggested home is not suitable, the parent may be asked to make another suggestion. Talk with the parents and/or CPS if you think you could provide a safe home for the grandchild during or after the investigation.

If a child is staying with you as part of a safety plan, you must maintain a good working relationship with CPS and follow CPS recommendations.

A CPS safety plan is not a permanent arrangement. CPS may change the plan at any time. You do not have to be a foster parent to be part of a CPS safety plan.

Is there financial support for the child when a safety plan is in place?

Yes, there is financial support if CPS decides an out-of-home safety plan is required. CPS offers the Grandparent and Alternative Care Program, which provides support, including financial support. You may be eligible for this support. Ask the CPS worker how to apply.

Will CPS share information with me?

CPS may not share information with you due to privacy and confidentiality reasons. CPS usually requires consent to share a person's information.

What if a parent is unwilling or unable to provide a safety plan?

Some parents may be unwilling or unable to provide CPS with an acceptable safety plan. If this happens:

- The parent may sign a voluntary care agreement. This means they agree to make the Director of CPS the child's guardian. A **guardian** is an adult recognized by the court who acts as a parent to a child.
- The child may be removed from the parent's care through a court process.

In both cases, CPS can only place the child with an approved foster parent. A **kinship foster parent** is a person approved by CPS to foster a child who is also the child's relative (or a person with a significant relationship to the child).





How does CPS decide kinship foster applications?

There is a detailed assessment process for kinship foster applications. CPS will consider the following:

- The best interests of the child.
- The parent's wishes.
- Provisions on PEI's child protection legislation.
- The length of time the child is expected to be in care.
- Your capacity to care for the child.
- Other factors about the child's needs.

Your age is not a factor in the decision.

Some things to know:

- If the child is already in foster care, it may be possible for the child to be placed in your home if you become an approved kinship foster parent.
- If you become the child's foster parent, you must maintain a good working relationship with CPS and follow their recommendations.

For application information, contact CPS at 902-368-5330.

Who provides financial support to a foster parent?

Approved foster parents receive monthly payments from CPS for the care of the child.

What if CPS is the permanent guardian of my grandchild?

The Director of CPS may be the permanent guardian of your grandchild if:

- The parents decided they cannot safely care for the child.
- The courts found that the parents cannot safely care for their child.

When the Director of CPS is a child's permanent guardian, they have all rights and responsibilities for the child, including the right to make a plan of adoption. The parents have no legal rights or responsibilities for the child.

How can I adopt my grandchild if CPS is the permanent guardian?

If you are in this situation, contact the child's social worker and let them know you are interested in adopting the child. Then, contact Adoption Services and fill out an adoption application.

The adoption process is mostly the same as usual (see page 15). But, there may be some other factors in cases where the Director of Child Protection is the child's permanent guardian.

What if my grandchild is a registered band member or entitled to be a registered band member?

PEI's child protection legislation has specific provisions for Indigenous children and youth.

If your grandchild is a registered member of a band or entitled to be registered as a member of a band, the Director of Child Protection Services must:

- Tell the designated representative of the band that an investigation is taking place.
- Tell the designated representative of the band about what was decided and if an agreement has been made for the child's protection.
- Tell the designated representative of the band about any court proceedings.
- Work with the designated representative of the band when developing the child's plan of care and a cultural connection plan.

Glossary

Adoption

A legal process that makes a new parent-child relationship.

Adoption order

A court order that approves an adoption.

Child Protection Services (CPS)

Part of the PEI government that protects children from abuse and neglect.

Child support

The financial duty a parent has to their dependent child.

Child support agreement

A contract that outlines parents' financial contributions.

Child support order

A court order about child support.

Collaborative practice

When you negotiate a settlement with the other parent, collaborative practice lawyers, and other professionals. Everyone must agree to keep the dispute out of court.

Contact

When a person who is not the child's parent spends time with the child.

Contact order

A court order that allows a person who is not the child's parent to have contact with the child.



**Court order**

A document from the court that states a judge's decisions and rules that must be followed.

Decision-making responsibility

Making major decisions for a child. For example, the child's health, education, or culture.

Dispute resolution

Resolving conflict outside of court.

Guardian

An adult recognized by the court who acts as a parent to a child.

Kinship foster parent

A person approved by CPS to foster a child who is also the child's relative (or a person with a significant relationship to the child).

Mediation

When you, the other person, and a mediator try to resolve disagreements.

Negotiation

Communicating to try to reach an agreement.

Parenting agreement

A contract that explains each parent's role and responsibilities. This is also called a parenting plan.

Parenting Arrangement Assessment

When a judge orders that a clinician provide evidence about the parenting situation and best interests of the child (previously called a home study).

Parenting order

A court order about decision-making responsibility and/or parenting time.

Parenting time

The time a child spends in the care of a parent.

Pre-hearing study

A study that gives the judge information about the child's current situation and the adoptive family's ability to provide for the child's best interests now and in the future.

Relative adoption

When a person adopts a child related to them.

Relocation

A move that will have a significant impact on a child's relationship with a person who has parenting time, decision-making responsibility, or a contact order.




Views of the Child Report

A report that shares a child's preferences about one or two specific topics.

Support Services

Legal Supports

Community Legal Information

-  www.legalinfopei.ca
-  info@legalinfopei.ca
-  902-892-0853; 1-800-240-9798 (toll-free)



We provide legal information, referrals, publications about legal topics in English and French, public speakers, and presentations on legal topics. This is a free, confidential service. We also offer the Lawyer Referral Service, which provides a short consultation with a lawyer for a modest fee.

PEI Family Legal Aid

-  www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/justice-and-public-safety/legal-aid
-  Charlottetown: 902-368-6656
-  Summerside: 902-888-8066

Legal Aid provides free legal representation for some family law issues. There are criteria that you must meet to qualify for this service.

Child-Focused Parenting Plan Mediation

-  www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/justice-and-public-safety/child-focused-parenting-plan-mediation
-  902-368-6928

A free mediation service that helps parents make an agreement about parenting time and decision-making responsibility.

Support for Grandparents

Summerside Grandparents' Support Group

☎ 902-888-2177

✉ eastprinceseniorsinitiative.blogspot.ca

Meets weekly in a supportive circle.

Building GRAND Families Inc.

🌐 www.grandfamiliesinc.ca

Builds community and support for grandparents and great-grandparents raising their grandchildren on PEI.

Indigenous Programs

Mi'kmaq Family PRIDE Program

☎ Summerside: 902-436-5101

☎ Lennox Island First Nation: 902-831-2711

☎ Abegweit First Nation: 902-676-2722

Provides support to on-reserve Indigenous families. They work toward the wellness, protection, and safety of Indigenous children and Indigenous families.

The Mi'kmaq Family Resource Centre

🌐 www.mikmaqfamilyresourcecentre.wordpress.com/




☎ 902-892-0928

The Mi'kmaq Family Resource Centre offers services that promote the health and well-being of Indigenous children and their parents, guardians, and caregivers.






Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI (MCPEI)

-  www.mcpei.ca
-  Charlottetown: 902-626-2882
-  Summerside: 902-436-5101

Promotes understanding of Mi'kmaq rights, culture and traditions; works on Treaty and Indigenous rights; develops capacity within First Nation communities; and works collaboratively with other government and community organizations.

Native Council of PEI (NCPEI)



-  www.ncpei.com
-  902-892-5314

NCPEI is the self-governing authority for off-reserve Indigenous peoples on PEI. NCPEI provides programming for Indigenous peoples on health, education, economic development, housing, family health, culture and tradition.

Family Resource Centres


Family Resource Centres offer programs and provide help to caregivers in many areas of childcare and development.


Cap enfants (Wellington)

-  www.capenfants.ca
-  902-854-2123

Provides francophone programs, services, and support for children ages 0-6 and their families across PEI.

CHANCES (Charlottetown)


 www.chancesfamily.ca

 902-892-8744

Provides a variety of programs and services for families with children from birth to 11. Prenatal programs are also available.

Families First (Montague)


 www.familiesfirstpei.com

 902-838-4600

Provides programs for children aged 0-6 and their families.

Family Place (Summerside)


 www.familyplacepei.com

 902-436-1348

Provides programs for families and children aged 0-6 including prenatal and postnatal programs.


Kids West Family Resource Centre (Alberton)

 www.facebook.com/kids.west.3/

 902-853-4066


Provides programs for children aged 0-6.


Main Street Family Resource Centre (Souris)

 902-687-3928

Provides programs for children aged 0-6 and their caregivers.

Mi'kmaq Family Resource Centre (Charlottetown)

 www.mikmaqfamilyresourcecentre.wordpress.com/


 902-892-0928


Works to strengthen and support families with culturally sensitive programs.


Financial Support and Housing


PEI Family Housing


 Charlottetown: 902-368-5770

 Summerside: 902-888-8436

 Montague: 902-838-0796


 Souris: 902-687-7098

 O'Leary: 902-859-8837

 Toll-Free: 1-877-368-5770


Provides rental housing for families living on low incomes.

Atlantic Peoples Housing Ltd. (APHL)

 902-566-4729

APHL manages several properties that rent units at 25% of the person's annual gross income.

Nanegkam Housing

 902-566-4729

Provides affordable rental housing in Charlottetown and Summerside to Indigenous people living off-reserve.

Out-of-Province Travel Support Program

📞 ooptravelsupport@gov.pe.ca

📠 902-368-5918

Subsidizes bus travel to help people access medical services out of PEI. Eligibility is based on household income. This subsidy does not cover ambulance use.

PEI Child Care Subsidy

📄 www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/feature/child-care-subsidy-calculator

📞 1-877-569-0546

This subsidy covers all or part of childcare costs at licensed daycares. Use the online Child Care Subsidy Calculator to see if you are eligible.

Social Assistance Program

📞 1-877-569-0546

Provides financial support as a last resort to help Islanders meet their basic needs. Eligibility is determined through an income and assets test for each applicant or family. People who live on reserve would apply to the Band's Social Program.





Health

811 Registered Nurse Service

☎ 811 (711 TTY)

You can speak with a registered nurse 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The nurse can answer questions and provide advice, information, and guidance. This free service is available in over 120 languages.

Public Health Nurses

- ☎ Souris: 902-687-7049
- ☎ Montague: 902-838-0762
- ☎ Charlottetown: 902-368-4530
- ☎ Kensington: 902-836-3863
- ☎ Summerside: 902-888-8160
- ☎ O'Leary: 902-859-8720
- ☎ Tignish: 902-882-7366

Offer child and youth health support, information, health promotion, illness prevention, health and developmental assessments and immunization.

Health PEI Audiology

- 📄 www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/service/audiology-services
- ☎ 902-368-5807



Provides free hearing assessments, hearing aid services for people under age 21 and healthy hearing programs.

Speech-Language Pathology Program

-  www.healthpei.ca/slp
-  1-844-344-TALK (8255)
-  Souris: 902-687-7016
-  Montague: 902-838-0762
-  Charlottetown: 902-368-4440
-  Summerside: 902-888-8160
-  Wellington: 902-854-7259
-  O'Leary: 902-859-8720

Provides assessments, education, and support to children. Pre-school children can access this program for free.

Student Wellbeing Teams

-  www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/education-and-lifelong-learning/student-well-being-teams
-  Student Wellbeing Program: 902-368-5868


Student well-being teams work in public schools supporting children and youth who are struggling with mental, social and physical health issues.

Addictions Services

-  www.justtalkpei.ca
-  1-888-299-8399
-  Mental Health and Addictions Phone Line: 1-833-553-6983


Provides programming for people dealing with drug or alcohol addictions. If you refer your grandchild, they will be assessed and matched to an appropriate service.

Strongest Families Program

 www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/health-pei/strongest-families



Provides timely, free mental health care for children, youth, and their families. The program is delivered online and through telehealth services.

Insulin Pump Program

 902-838-0787


Provides support to families for the costs associated with insulin pump therapy.

PEI Pharmacare Program

 www.healthpei.ca/pharmacare
 902-368-4947; 1-877-577-3737



Helps cover the cost of prescription drugs.

Public Health Dental Programs

 902-368-5460; 1-866-368-5460

Provides free dental care to children (ages 3-17). More support is available for children without access to an insurance plan.



Eye See Eye Learn Program

 www.healthpei.ca/eyesee-eyelearn
 902-368-5819

Provides a free eye exam and glasses for a kindergarten child if the child's family cannot afford them.




Social Support and Recreation

Resource Abilities

-  www.resourceabilities.ca
-  902-892-9149; 1-888-473-4263



Promotes the full participation and inclusion of people with disabilities in PEI. If your grandchild has a disability, they may be eligible for financial assistance, financial relief, or specialized programming.

Big Brothers, Big Sisters

-  www.pei.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca
-  Charlottetown: 902-569-5437; 1-877-411-3729
-  Summerside: 902-436-8122



Matches adults with children for social recreation and mentoring.

4H

-  www.pei4h.ca
-  1-866-308-4833

Youth 9 to 21 can learn leadership and life skills while promoting agriculture awareness.

Adventure Group (Charlottetown)

-  www.adventuregrouppei.ca
-  902-628-8668

Provides activity-based learning and self-exploration with a focus on personal and social skills development. Bursaries may be available.





Go!PEI

- i** www.gopei.ca
- ☎** 902-892-9149; 1-888-473-4263

Provides free physical activity and healthy eating programs across the Island to all ages and abilities. Includes Learn 2 Run, after-school programs, walking clubs, and healthy cooking classes.

PEI Literacy Alliance

- i** www.peiliteracy.ca

Provides programs that support children to increase their literacy and essential skills.

Jumpstart PEI

- ☎** PEI Recreation Facilities: 902-892-6445

Helps kids in need participate in activities and recreation. Youths can apply for up to \$300 for registration fees and equipment. Sports, Girl Guides, Scouts, dance, and fitness classes are eligible.

KidSport PEI

- i** www.kidsportcanada.ca/prince-edward-island
- ☎** 902-368-4110; 1-800-247-6712

Helps remove financial barriers so that children can participate in sport. Youth can apply for up to \$300 to attend programs from 40 provincial organizations.

BGC PEI

- 📞 Charlottetown: 902-892-1817
- 📞 Summerside: 902-436-9403
- 📞 Wellington: 902-854-3174

Provides day camps and after-school programs with a focus on life skills, education, social development, and learning. Families living on a low income can apply for bursaries.

MCPEI Indigenous Sports Circle

- 📄 www.mcpei.ca/Aboriginal_Sport_Circle
- 📞 902-438-2113

Supports grassroots participation in sport for Indigenous people on PEI.

Native Council of PEI

- 📄 www.ncpei.com
- 📞 902-892-5314

Provides youth and family programming for Indigenous youth and their caregivers.

Bridging Barriers: Youth Connecting Youth

- 📄 www.ncpei.com/services/youth-connecting-youth
- 📞 902-629-1541

The Youth Connecting Youth program brings youth aged 12-29 of all ethnicities and backgrounds together to learn and engage in Indigenous culture.

More Resources

Community Legal Information also offers these publications:

- *Parenting and the Law*
- *How to Go to Family Court Without a Lawyer*
- *Family Law Essentials*
- *Resolving Conflict Outside of Court*

We also have publications on other legal topics. All publications are free and can be found on our website. Contact us for paper copies.

Community Legal Information

- www.legalinfopei.ca
- info@legalinfopei.ca
- 902-892-0853; 1-800-240-9798 (toll-free)





Community Legal Information is a charitable organization that receives funding from Justice Canada, the Law Foundation of PEI, the Law Society of PEI, the PEI Department of Justice and Public Safety, and other sources. Community Legal Information provides Islanders with understandable and useful information about the law and the justice system in Prince Edward Island.

For more information on other legal topics, visit www.legalinfopei.ca, email us at info@legalinfopei.ca, or call us at **902-892-0853** or **1-800-240-9798**. You can also find us on social media.

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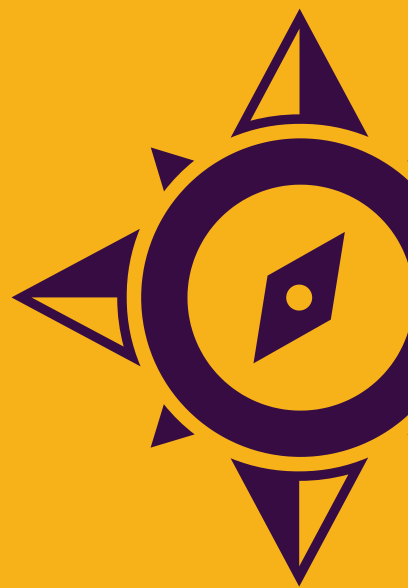
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