

About Us



OUR MISSION

To protect children and strengthen families and communities through partnership

OUR VISION

Every child cherished

PEEL CHILDREN'S AID





ABOUT PEEL CHILDREN'S AID

Founded in 1912, Peel Children's Aid is funded by the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services. Our mission is to protect children and strengthen families and communities through partnership.

We provide protection services to children under the age of 16, seven days per week, 24 hours per day. We investigate reports of children whose safety may be at risk and provide support and counseling to families in crisis. We also provide foster care, supervise children in the agency's care, place children for adoption and facilitate adoption disclosure. We strive to provide services that are culturally sensitive and available in all languages.

Keeping children safe is a shared responsibility. We work collaboratively with families, faith groups and community-based social agencies. When parents and other caregivers are unable to care for their children, we engage the family and their support system to plan an alternate living arrangement that keeps children in familiar environments where they have established relationships. Our goal is to promote permanency in stable, loving homes.

In certain circumstances we bring a child or youth into our care for their safety and well-being. We provide safe and nurturing environments for children and youth who cannot live at home while we plan for their permanent care. We recognize the importance of culture and diversity and where possible, place children directly into foster homes best suited to their needs.

DUTY TO REPORT

We all have an obligation to report child abuse and neglect. Everyone who hears of a child's safety or well-being concern has a duty to report the information to the local Children's Aid.

The law requires professionals who work with children to report abuse or neglect concerns if they suspect a child is in need of protection. Visit www.peelcas.org for more information.



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU CALL

When you contact Peel Children's Aid with any question or concern for a child's well-being, you speak with a professional social worker who will listen carefully so they can understand how best to help.

Our goal is to keep children with their families by giving parents the support they need to create a stable home. In only a small number of cases are children removed from a family and placed with other family members or foster parents. When a situation requires us to remove a child or youth from their home, we provide a safe and nurturing environment for them.

In most cases, we provide guidance and counseling specific to their situation, and work with other community agencies to ensure families receive the support they need to care for their children.



FAMILY SERVICES

When children are in need of protection, Peel Children's Aid provides counseling, teaching and support programs to keep families together whenever possible. Our agency works with families to help them care for their children in a more positive way and offers guidance and techniques for becoming better parents. Our Pathways supportive access program for children and families involved with the agency offers a safe, nurturing environment where families are treated with respect and caring and where their strengths are recognized and supported. We connect with our community partners to ensure the families we work with have access to counseling and treatment programs.

FOSTER FAMILIES

A foster family provides a temporary, safe and caring environment for infants, children and teens who are unable to stay in their own home. Children need a foster family when their own home is no longer safe for them or no parent or guardian is available. "Kinship" is another option our agency provides, where relatives or other trusted adults who have a connection with the child become alternate caregivers. With more than 150 foster families in Brampton, Caledon and Mississauga, our foster family population reflects the various cultures and heritage of the Peel community.

RESIDENTIAL CARE

Peel Children's Aid operates residential homes to care for youth in special circumstances. Residential homes with a parent model program benefit adolescents who respond to a family-like environment and are preparing for independent living in the community. Alternatively, staff operated group homes serve children and youth entering the care of the agency who may be experiencing extreme emotional and behavioural difficulties. These homes provide short-term assessment or long-term residential care for youth ages 12 to 18 who have a broad range of mental health needs, developmental challenges and behavioural needs.

If children are unable to be placed in a foster home or residence managed by Peel Children's Aid, appropriate care is arranged in another community resource.

ADOPTION

Adoption is the legal process that gives children a new family when their birth families are unable to care for them. It is intended to provide children with a permanent home, stability and lifelong security.

Children waiting to be adopted come from a variety of cultural, racial, ethnic and religious backgrounds.

These children may have encountered trauma and require time to adjust to their adoptive family. Each child is unique - some are siblings waiting for a family who can adopt them together. Others may have special needs - developmental and/or physical challenges. They all have one thing in common - the need for a permanent, safe and loving family.





VOLUNTEERS

Peel Children's Aid believes that volunteers are an integral part of the services we provide to children and families in our community. More than 400 volunteers enhance the efforts of our staff through their support as tutors, mentors and drivers, as well as through their assistance with special events.

Volunteers provide nurturing, genuine care and enrich the lives of our children and families through their diversity and the generous contribution of their time, talents and skills.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Peel Children's Aid works with community partners such as schools, hospitals and police as well as other child protection agencies to enhance the quality of services we offer while ensuring the safety and well-being of children in Peel. A list of our community partners is available on our website at www.peelcas.org/aboutus.asp.

PUBLICATIONS

Peel Children's Aid has many publications available free of charge. Please visit our website at www.peelcas.org/parenting.asp to view our Parenting series, which includes brochures in multiple languages on discipline and child safety.



PEEL CHILDREN'S AID FOUNDATION



Core protection services provided by Peel Children's Aid are funded by the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services. Peel Children's Aid Foundation was established in 2003 to raise funds to support innovative and urgently needed programs and services that are not government-funded.

Through the generosity of our donors, Peel Children's Aid Foundation funds programs that improve the quality of life for children under the supervision of Peel Children's Aid. These programs also provide emergency funding to keep financially disadvantaged families together and offer incentives for youth to stay in school and pursue a secure future through post-secondary education and apprenticeship programs. Our foundation turns children's dreams - big and small - into reality. Please visit our website at www.peelkidsfoundation.com to learn how you can help.



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