

A commitment to families, youth and children receiving the right help at the earliest possible time, and keeping children and youth in their families and communities whenever possible.



Engaging Families,  
Youth and Children  
in Case Planning

Catholic  
Children's Aid Society  
of Hamilton



Catholique  
Société d'aide à l'enfance  
de Hamilton

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We believe that children, youth and families have a **right to be heard** and to participate in planning and decision-making. A case planning meeting is one way in which you can participate.

### What is a Case Plan?

It is a way of working together with you and your family to create a plan which you have participated in and understand.

It is a road map we create together, to guide our work to ensure the safety and well-being of your child(ren).

It is a living document that is created and updated throughout our work together and serves to create the Plan of Service, Plan of Care and/or Youth Plan.

Case plans are reviewed regularly with you and your family. Case plans are flexible and can be changed if the circumstances in your family change.

### How Do We Develop a Case Plan?

You may be asked to attend a meeting that will involve you (and your child(ren) where appropriate), your family, society workers, foster parents, and anyone else that you consider a support (e.g. extended family members, teachers, neighbours, church, etc.).

During the case planning meeting we will discuss what is working well in your family, what both you and the Society are worried about, and develop a plan as to what will happen next. Everyone is given the opportunity to share their opinions and concerns.

A case planning meeting can happen at any time during your involvement with the Society. An outline is used to organize and guide the meeting.

### What is the Location of the Case Planning Meeting?

A case planning meeting may be held at your home, in the community, or at the Society office.

### Participation of Children and Youth

It is important that your child(ren)'s voice is part of the case planning meeting. Your child(ren) can be part of the meeting, by being present, by providing letters and pictures, or having a trusted adult speak for them.

### What if I don't agree with the Society's concerns?

A case planning meeting is an opportunity for you and your family to better understand the Society's concerns and, for the Society to understand your concerns, and what you feel would help your family, so that we can work together, even if we don't always agree.

### What can you do to prepare for the case planning meeting?

Talk with your worker about who you would like to take part in the case planning meeting.

Think about the following questions to help you be able to talk about what is working well, what you are worried about and what you think needs to happen next:

1. What do you think you do well as a parent?
2. What do you like about being a parent?

3. What do you do to help yourself deal with the pressures of raising children?
4. Have there been times when other people have been able to help you with raising your child(ren)? If yes, how?
5. How do you think your child(ren) could be safer?
6. Is there anything you feel is getting in the way of you being the best parent you can be?
7. If you received the support that you wanted to deal with the worries, what would that support look like?

