

Foster Allegation & Support Services

Foster families are entitled to representation as per the *Protocol for Investigating Allegations of Abuse and Neglect in Foster Homes (2013)* to ensure they understand the investigation process and are aware of their rights within the process.

The Federation of Foster Families of Nova Scotia welcomes the opportunity to provide services of the Foster Allegation & Support Services Social Worker through funding from the Department of Community Services.

Foster families are also entitled to support services. If you have an issue or challenge that you would like to speak to someone about, please contact the Foster Allegation & Support Services Social Worker.

Federation of Foster Families of Nova Scotia

Jill Martin, MSW, RSW
Foster Allegation & Support Services Social Worker

99 Wyse Road, Suite 350
Dartmouth NS B3A 4S5
Phone: 902-424-2711
Toll Free: 1-888-845-1555
Fax: 902-424-5199
www.fosterfamilies.ns.ca

FEDERATION OF FOSTER FAMILIES OF NOVA SCOTIA

FOSTER ALLEGATION & SUPPORT SERVICES



Foster Allegation Investigation - Process

The Foster Allegation & Support Services (F.A.S.S.) Social Worker, **upon request by a foster family**, will provide the following services as outlined in the *Protocol For Investigating Allegations of Abuse and Neglect in Foster Homes (2013)*.

- Promote Protocol awareness and understanding, including possible outcomes;
- Provide consent forms to the foster family which permit the Foster Allegation & Support Services Social Worker to consult with the Home Agency and Investigating Agency;
- Provide the foster family with knowledge about the availability of insurance coverage through the Department of Community Services by contacting their Agency/District Office, if required;
- Consult with the Foster Care Social Worker regarding support services provided to the foster family during the investigation;
- Support the foster family throughout the investigation process including attendance at meetings to ensure foster families questions, comments, and concerns are verbalized and to ensure the foster family understands the questions being asked;

- Assist the foster family in accepting the final outcome of the Investigation and articulating their concerns, if any, to the Agency/District Office;
- Consult with the Foster Care Social Worker on behalf of the foster family for follow-up support services upon completion of the Investigation Process;
- Represent the foster families' best interests through consultation with the Home Agency to support referrals to community resources and/or professional resources as the result of an allegation investigation;
- Provide assistance or support to Agency staff during the Protocol Investigation including:
 - attendance at meetings to assist the Agency in discussing concerns or questions regarding the investigation process;
 - when appropriate, support the Agency decision to close the foster home and assist the Foster Care Social Worker in concluding the Agency's relationship with the foster family;
 - with the foster family's consent to provide periodic updates on the general well-being of the foster family and to ensure the Foster Care Social Worker can provide assistance and/or support.

Formal Review Process

The F.A.S.S. Social Worker, **upon request by a foster family**, will:

- Review with the foster family their concerns regarding the foster home closure due to the findings of the Child Protection Investigation;
- Assist foster families with written correspondence related to the review process, if required;
- Assess the need for ongoing support based on the needs of the foster family;
- Provide support to families in accepting the outcome of the investigation and subsequent review process.

Support Services

The F.A.S.S. Social Worker, **upon request by a foster family**, will:

- Provide support during a challenging time other than allegations;
- Maintain confidentiality unless there is a duty to report;
- Assess the needs of the foster parent and/or family;
- Refer to Outreach & Therapeutic Services and/or Community Resources as required.