

Extended Family Program (EFP) Info Sheet

What does this program do? The Extended Family program is an off-reserve program run by MCFD. The EFP provides financial support when the child is out-of-home living with a person who knows the child but is not the guardian.

Is the Extended Family program permanent?

No. The EFP is a short term program, usually two years or less, where the care of a child is temporarily transferred from the parents to the care provider.

How is this helpful for a child?

When the parents are not able to care for the child, this short term program keeps the child with people they know and out of foster care.

Who is the EFP care provider?

The care provider is a person who has an established relationship with a child, or has a cultural or traditional responsibility towards the child.

A person who the parents agree can keep the child safe and provide for their daily needs.

A person who can pass EFP screening.

What does the care provider need?

- To be 19 years or older and does not have legal guardianship of the child
- To have the ability to meet the child's special needs, if any, in a nurturing way
- Understand that the parents maintain guardianship when the child lives with them under the EFP

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- Supports parent and child visits and the goal of them reuniting
- Sign MCFD consent forms
- Complete a ministry prior contact check
- Complete a Consolidated Criminal Record Check
- Provide three references – two from family members and one from a friend
- Pass a basic home check - the home is safe (smoke detectors working) and meets child's privacy needs

What about the EFP for Aboriginal children?

The parents of Aboriginal children are told about services through the Aboriginal community, community agencies or Aboriginal agency so they have an understanding of services already provided. If the Aboriginal community is contacted or a referral made the parents or children must consent.

How is the child prepared for EFP?

The child is active in planning, is free to talk about their feelings and the contact they would like with parents. The practitioner will explain the reasons for this program and the visits planned.

Who is the practitioner and what do they do?

The practitioner is the MCFD person overseeing the program. The practitioner determines what formal and informal services can support the people involved. The practitioner assesses the child's needs, determines if the child is safe with the care provider, and explains to the child why they will be living with the care provider. The practitioner provides the finished agreement for people involved and encourages child and parent contact. The practitioner

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also provides information to the child and parent about their progress towards reunification.

What info does the care provider receive?

The care provider should be aware of medical, dental and optical coverage or support services (formal or informal) that meet the child's needs

Are parents asked to contribute financially?

Parents may be asked to contribute financially.

What is does an EFP service plan cover?

- Services the care provider needs
- Goals – when will the child return home
- How the parents, care provider and practitioner will help with the goal
- What can the child can do towards the goals
- How the parents and care provider will contact each other
- What services the parents need to help them be reunited with the child

When can the child live with the care provider?

When the care provider and their home are considered safe, a service plan is made, this usually takes under two months or shorter to complete.

How often does the practitioner contact the care provider?

The practitioner should contact the care provider every six months. The practitioner may also be involved with asking extended family to be resource for the care provider if necessary.

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Can the care provider apply for Child Tax Benefit?

The care provider can apply for Child Tax Benefit, Disability Tax Credit and Family Bonus programs.

Are funds from EFP considered income?

The care provider should report the funds as income and contact Revenue Canada for more information.

Is the Healthy Kids program affected?

Yes. The Healthy Kids program is for parents or guardians who need assistance with dental and optical expenses. The Healthy Kids program cannot continue with the Extended Family Program.

What are the funds under EFP?

The care provider would receive \$554.27 monthly for a child under 12 years and \$625 for a child 12 years and older.