



care

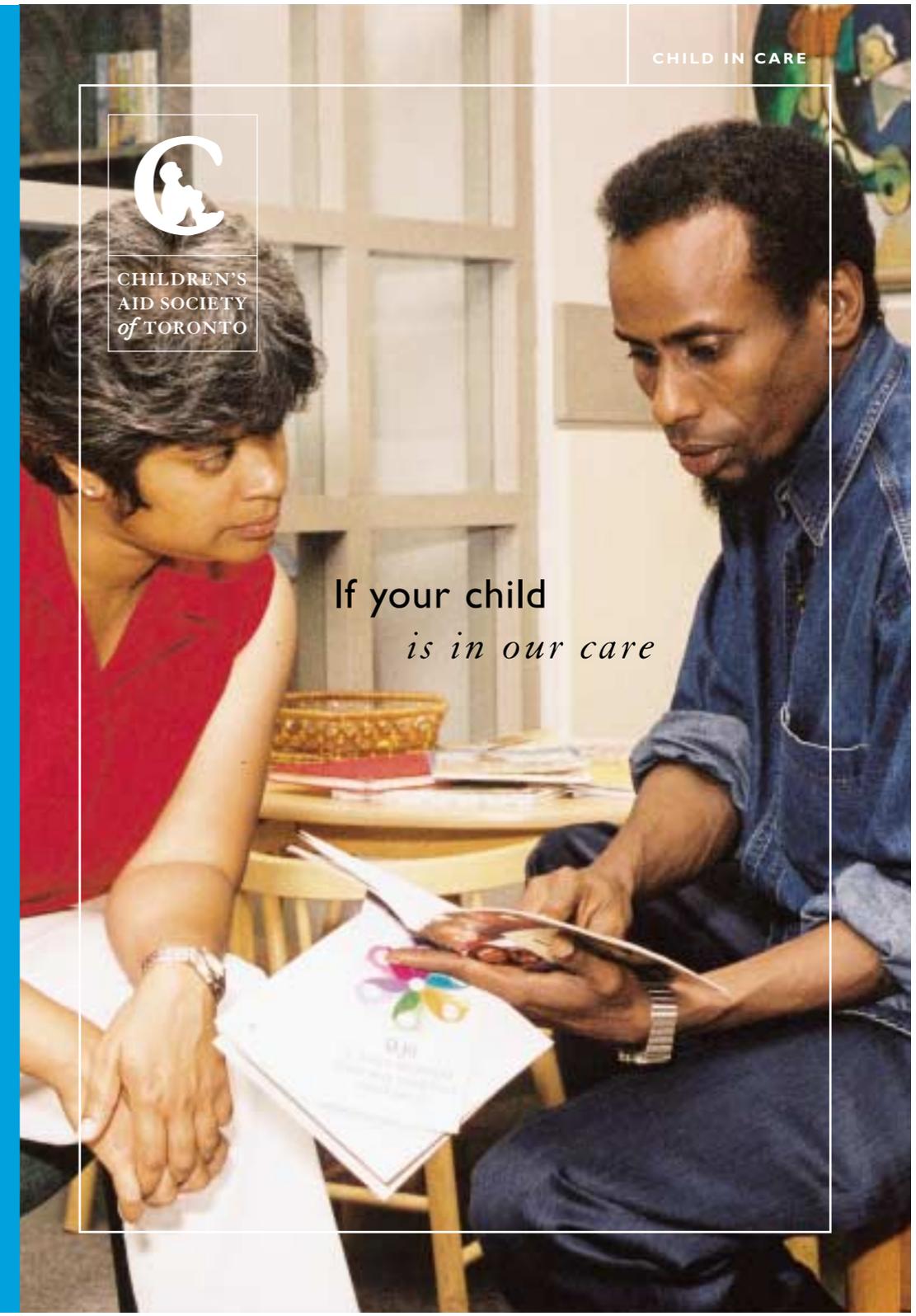
Children come into the care of the **Children's Aid Society (CAS)** of Toronto for various reasons. Their parents may not be able to care for them safely, other supports such as counselling or education have not worked or are not available, or friends and relatives cannot help out.

Some children are placed with us voluntarily by their parents, while others are placed by court order. You should talk to your CAS worker about your child's personal situation.

CHILD IN CARE



CHILDREN'S
AID SOCIETY
of TORONTO



If your child
is in our care



CHILDREN'S
AID SOCIETY
of TORONTO

www.TorontoCAS.ca

For more information about your child in care contact us at
416.924.4646 or inquiries@TorontoCAS.ca



Children in our care

Length of care

At the CAS of Toronto we believe that children are almost always better off growing up in their own homes. Therefore, we will try to return your child home again as soon as possible.

To help do this, we will work with you to try to resolve the factors that brought your child into our care.

Some children, however, may need to be cared for away from home on a long-term basis. Generally, only a judge can make this decision.

Whatever decision is made about your child's future, the law requires that it be done early. That's because research shows that children, especially young children, need permanency in their lives as soon as possible.

Providing a home for your child

The CAS of Toronto offers several types of placements for children in our care. This includes foster homes, group homes, and other kinds of residences. Some of these are managed directly by us, while others are run by community agencies.

We will place your child in the best available home that is able to meet his or her needs. We will also try to make sure that it's as close as possible to your child's home community.

Caring for your child

Most children in our care, particularly young children, live with foster families. The family caring for your child will have been carefully selected using a rigorous approval process. They receive training and support, and are regularly evaluated on their ability to care for other people's children.

We will assign a children's services worker (usually a different worker than the one assigned to work with you and other members of your family) to make sure that your child is living in a safe, healthy environment, and that his or her needs are being met appropriately.

You have the right to be involved in the important decisions that need to be made about your child. We will also involve your child in a way that's appropriate to his or her age and ability.

To help cover the living expenses of your child while in care, you will be asked to make a contribution, if you're able to do so. Your CAS worker will talk with you about this.



Visiting your child

You may visit with your child in private, unless a judge decides, or a court order provides for the CAS to decide it is not in your child's best interests.

These visits may occur at your home, in the community, or at the place where your child is living. You and your CAS worker (and your child if he or she is old enough) will discuss when, where and how often you can visit.

Problem resolution while your child is in care

We want to provide services that are helpful to you and your child. We must also comply with the laws governing children in CAS care.

If there's a problem, we will do our best to resolve it. Please feel free to talk to your CAS worker if you have any concerns or questions.

If you and your CAS worker can't sort it out, ask to speak to the CAS worker's supervisor. If you, the worker and the supervisor can't resolve the problem, the CAS has a formal complaint procedure that will be explained to you. You can ask for a written copy of this procedure at any time.

Your child's rights

While your child is in the care of the CAS of Toronto, he or she has several important rights, including:

- The right to participate in the important decisions that are made about his or her life in a way that's appropriate to his or her age and ability
- The right to privacy
- The right to visit with you, unless a judge decides, or a court order provides for the CAS to decide it is not in your child's best interests
- The right to receive appropriate care, including nutritious meals, education that suits his or her abilities, regular medical and dental care, age-appropriate clothing, and participation in after-school recreational activities
- The right to freedom from physical abuse or punishment, and from emotional, sexual and verbal abuse
- The right to practise his or her religion, and to receive religious instruction
- The right to participate in activities that are important to his or her culture and heritage
- The right to have his or her individuality respected, including ability, sexual orientation and gender identification

Disagreements with a judge's decision

If your child is in care because of the decision of a judge, you will likely have had a lawyer representing you in court.

If your case hasn't been heard yet, the judge will make sure you have had access to a lawyer before he or she makes any decisions. If you can't afford one, you should ask for assistance from your local legal aid office.

The lawyer will represent your interests and explain the judge's decisions to you, as well as any court procedures you don't understand. The lawyer will also tell you what you can do if you disagree with the judge's decision.

Additional information

While your child is in care you should speak to your CAS worker about anything you don't understand, or if you have any other questions or concerns. You can also contact the CAS of Toronto for more information.

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rights