

Children Out of the Parental Home (COPH) - Refuse to Consent

SAMPLE LETTER - Inform Discontinue Existing COPH

Administering Authority Letter Head

(NOTE: A Discontinue Existing COPH Letter for each child must be provided to the relative; a copy of this letter must be kept on the specific COPH case file)

Date

COPH Relative's Name
Street Address
CITY PROVINCE POSTAL CODE

Dear [Relative]:

RE: [COPH Child Recipient]

The administering authority appreciates your effort to provide a safe and caring home for [name of child] when (his or her) parents are unable to do so. This letter is to advise that we have reviewed [name of child]'s eligibility for Children Out of the Parental Home (COPH) Assistance, formerly known as Guardian Financial Assistance (GFA), and have determined that (he or she) is no longer eligible for COPH Assistance.

COPH Assistance may only be provided when all eligibility criteria under subsection "Eligibility Criteria" in Chapter 6.1 of the *Social Development Policy and Procedures Manual, BC Region* are met. The eligibility criteria are:

As of January 1, 2010, all COPH placements must be screened by MCFD as a condition of eligibility for COPH assistance to determine if there is evidence of risk to the child in that placement.

- (1) A child may be eligible for COPH assistance only if all of the following criteria are met:
 - (a) the child resides with his or her relative,
 - (b) the child's parent placed the child with the relative,
 - (c) the child's parent does not reside with the relative and
 - (d) MCFD determines there is no evidence of a level of risk to the child in the home that compromises the home as an appropriate place for the child.

A child is **not** eligible for COPH assistance if:

- (a) the child ceases to meet all the eligibility criteria conditions set out in (1) above,
- (b) the relative with whom the child resides has entered into an agreement under section 8 of the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* in relation to the child,

- (c) the relative with whom the child resides or the parent of the child fails
 - i. to provide accurate and complete information to the administering authority,
 - ii. to provide all of the authorizations requested by the administering authority
 - iii. to attend in person at the office of the administering authority to complete a review when required to do, or
 - iv. to submit the forms required by the administering authority during an eligibility review.

The administering authority has determined that [name of child] is no longer eligible for COPH assistance because a person (persons) age 18 or older living in the household has/have refused to provide a written consent (consents) for Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) to conduct a BC Corrections Network System (CORNET) criminal record check and a Prior Contact Check (PCC) on the person(s).

Also enclosed are information sheets that explain the policy on the COPH assistance screening checks requirement and how MCFD determines if there is evidence of risk to the child in the home.

Please note that the decision to deny or discontinue COPH assistance because a person (persons) age 18 or older living in the household has (have) refused to provide a written consent (consents) for Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) to conduct screening checks cannot be appealed to an Appeals Hearing Committee. If you have questions or concerns about MCFD screening checks, you may wish to contact the [provide name and phone number of the First Nations Child and Family Services agency or local MCFD office] to discuss alternative voluntary support services for the child.

Yours truly,

(Worker's Name)
(Administering authority)
(Street Address)
CITY BC (Postal Code)

Enclosures