

June 6, 2024

**MEMORANDUM TO:** Service Providers Funded, Licensed or Delivering Services under the *Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017*

**RE:** *Supporting Children's Futures Act, 2024: Bill 188 – Royal Assent*

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In follow-up to the April 18, 2024 memo advising you of the [introduction of the \*Supporting Children's Futures Act \(Bill 188\)\*](#) in the Legislature, I am writing to inform you that [the Bill](#) has received Royal Assent.

The *Supporting Children's Futures Act, 2024* (SCFA) amends:

- The *Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017* (CYFSA), with consequential amendments to the *Intercountry Adoption Act, 1998* (IAA) and *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014*, (CCEYA).
- The *Social Work and Social Service Work Act, 1998* (SWSSWA).

The amendments made by the SCFA will come into effect in a phased manner, as follows:

Timing	Topic(s)
Royal Assent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regulation-making authority: enables future regulatory amendments to be put forward:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To allow for information other than a formal police record check, such as an offence declaration, to be required in the child and youth sector.</li><li>• To allow for certain individuals with past child protection involvement to share their information in certain circumstances.</li></ul></li></ul>
July 1, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Information sharing: Clarified authority for service providers, including children's aid societies, to share personal information with the College of Early Childhood Educators and Ontario College of Teachers; SWSSWA amendments to enable people engaged in the administration of the SWSSWA to share information in certain circumstances.</li><li>• Ombudsman's Office: Clarified circumstances when children and young persons must be made aware of the role and function of the Ombudsman.</li><li>• Duty to report: Clarification that early childhood educators are subject to the offence for failing to report a suspicion that a child is, or may be, in need of protection if they obtained the information in the course of their professional or official duties.</li></ul>

Timing	Topic(s)
Upon future proclamation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Licensed out of home care: enhancements to enforcement, oversight, and licensing and related consequential amendments to the IAA and CCEYA.</li> <li>• Offences and penalties for contravening rules in the CYFSA respecting: prohibited use of corporal punishment on a child or young person receiving services, detention of a child or young person in a locked premises, and restricted use of physical and mechanical restraints on a child or young person.</li> <li>• Protecting privacy: a framework to, once regulations are developed, increase the protection of personal information of those who have previous involvement with the child welfare system.</li> </ul>

As noted in the April memo, related changes to the following regulations under the CYFSA will take effect on January 1, 2025:

- Ontario Regulation 155/18: *General Matters under the Authority of the Lieutenant Governor in Council* (O. Reg. 155/18).
- Ontario Regulation 156/18: *General Matters under the Authority of the Minister* (O. Reg. 156/18).

The government is committed to implementing measures that are designed to improve the safety, security and well-being of children and youth receiving services in the child and youth services sector – the introduction of these legislative and regulatory amendments is intended to help further these objectives.

**Next Steps:**

The ministry will continue to engage with sector partners and organizations to support implementation - including to help identify and develop implementation supports for both the amendments in the SCFA, as well as the regulatory amendments that will take effect on January 1, 2025.

- This will include additional communication with service providers, including children’s out of home care licensees and children’s aid societies in the coming weeks, to provide more information regarding these regulatory amendments.

Further information will also be forthcoming on plans to engage with stakeholders to support the development of new privacy-related regulations, as well as updates on the additional proposals posted to the regulatory registry alongside introduction of the SCFA.

The ministry knows that more work is needed to modernize and standardize important safeguards throughout the child and youth service sector. We are committed to continuing to collaborate with service providers, Indigenous organizations, and youth with lived experience, to strengthen measures that are designed to support the safety, security and well-being of children and youth.

We encourage you to share this information within your organizations. If you have any questions, please send an email to [CYFSA@ontario.ca](mailto:CYFSA@ontario.ca).

On behalf of the ministry, thank you for your continued support.