

10.23 Children and Exposure to Second Hand Smoke

Policy Statement

Every child in the care of the director will be provided with a safe, healthy, nurturing environment. Children in care of the director, subject to the timelines for implementation, will not be exposed to second hand smoke.

Intent

- It has been clinically demonstrated that exposure to second-hand smoke and smoking related behaviour is detrimental to the health and development of an individual.
- This policy clarifies Alberta Children's Services direction regarding exposing children in care of the director to second hand-smoke through the use of tobacco products while providing services to children.
- At the timelines set out in this policy, foster parents will not expose children in care of the director to second hand smoke.
- **This policy is not intended to restrict in any way the spiritual use of tobacco or smoking related activities.**

Procedure

Subject to the implementation schedule listed below, children in the care of the director will be placed in non-smoking environments.

- No smoking will be permitted in the residence where a child is placed.
- No smoking in vehicles when children are being transported.
- Caregivers who use tobacco related products should not do so in the presence of a child receiving services.
- Caregivers will not purchase tobacco products for children in care of the director.

Timelines

- Effective January 1, 2006, all new foster parents will be required to provide a non-smoking environment.
- Effective February 1, 2006, children under two years of age will be in non-smoking environments.
- Effective July 1, 2006, all current foster parents will be required to provide a non-smoking environment.