
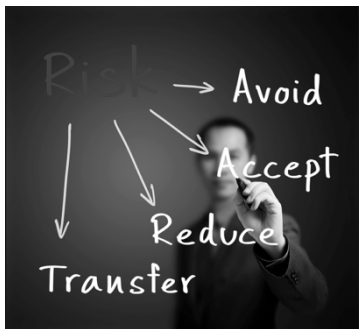
 The Canada Homestay Network
Bringing international students and Canadian host families together™


**Minors in Homestay:
Best Practices**

Languages Canada Conference
March 4, 2016


 **What makes Minors Different?**



Risk → Avoid
↓ ↓ ↓ ↓
Accept
Reduce
Transfer

 **Accepting and Reducing Risk**


1. Host Screening & Support
 - Criminal Records Checks & Homestay Suitability Declaration Form
 - Annual CRC Declarations
 - Training & Orientation, student behaviour expectations, when to call
2. Student Screening
 - Agent Relationship Management
3. Student Monitoring & Support
 - Orientations
 - Abuse & Sexual health
 - Custodianship
 - Code of conduct & Double standards (re: adults)
 - Travel policy
 - Conflict resolution
4. Consequence Management
 - Progressive discipline
 - Terminations – where, when, how, who

 **Host Screening**


Languages Canada Standard D.4c


Member programs placing students under the legal age of majority in homestay will:


1. Provide evidence of having policies and procedures in place to minimize risks for these students.
2. Provide resources to these students explaining what they must do if they ever feel uncomfortable about the intention of any resident in their homestay.
3. Agree to re-assign any student under the legal age of majority to another homestay within 24 hours if the student requests a change in the homestay due to feeling uncomfortable about the intentions of any resident in the homestay.

 **Host Orientation**

- Additional expectations for supervision and support (eg. Curfews, travel)
- Be clear about expectations about relationship with natural parents
- Bank accounts, cell phone plans
- Abuse prevention
- Mental Health




 **Student Screening**




 **Student Monitoring & Support**



There are teenagers having unprotected sex, but have cases on their cell phones. Just let that sink in for a moment.

 **Conflict Resolution: PREPARE**



Why
• Purpose/Goals

What
• Scope/Focus


Who
• Everyone who is affected

How
• Good ways to good places

When
• Timely Outcomes

What Next
• Building on Agreements


Ensure clarity of Expectations, Outcomes and Relationships

 **AID model for dialogue**

A: Action

I: Impact (Feelings and Needs)

D: Desired Result/Behaviour (Request)

 **AID model for dialogue**


ACTION
IMPACT
DESIRED RESULT/BEHAVIOUR

"When you come home at 5:00 in the morning after a late night of partying,
(Action)

the dog barks and wakes up my family. It is disruptive to our sleep and it sets a poor example to my teenagers. (Impact)

I remember what it's like to be young and want to stay out with my friends, and I can understand how this is important to you in order to fit in here in Canada. And at the same time, in order for you to stay in our home, I will need your behaviour to change. (Desired Result) I think a curfew of 1:00 am on weeknights is fair and reasonable.


Do you think you could find a way to manage your relationships and your friends to ensure that you can come home on time? (Request)"

 **Student Monitoring & Support**

For the Criminal Code, remember the additional terms regarding a 'child' vs. the 'age of protection'

child /child/	Age of Protection
Noun	
A young human being below the age of full physical development or below the legal age of majority.	16;
	18 in QC, AB
18; 19 in BC and NB	19 in BC


<http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/other-autre/c/lp/faq.html>

 **Child Protection Policy**

CHN has zero tolerance for physical, sexual and emotional abuse and/or neglect of students in all of its programs.

We have a duty to educate hosts and students in abuse prevention; and


... we also have a duty to use our best efforts to detect, intervene in and report abuse or neglect of students in accordance with applicable laws.



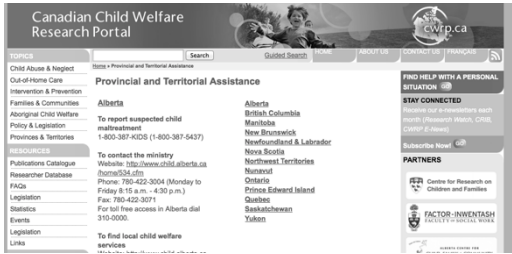
 **Duty to Report**
"Reasonable grounds to suspect"




EDUCATE YOUR TEAM ON THE WARNING SIGNS

 **Resources**

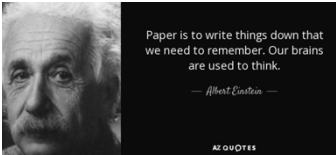
The *Child and Family Services Act* (the "CFSA") requires that anyone with reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is or likely will be a child in need of protection must report these suspicions to a Children's Aid Society ("CAS").




 **Documentation**


1. If it isn't written down, it didn't happen.


Period.




 **Key Messages for Students**

- Trust your instincts
- Your body is **yours**
- You do not have to do anything you do not **want** to do
- It is **not okay** for you to engage in sexual activities with adults
- Adults **do not have the right** to take inappropriate pictures of you
- No one has the right to touch you without your **permission**
- Alcohol and drugs make it difficult to maintain **boundaries** and make decisions difficult
- You can tell your homestay coordinator anything: we are here to help **protect** you and make sure you have a wonderful Canadian experience.



 **Resources for Students**


- Tell your host family (if the perpetrator is outside the family)
- Tell your homestay coordinator
- Tell your school guidance counselor
- Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-422-4453 (1-800-4-achild) **offers assistance in 170 languages**
- Kids Help Phone 1-800-668-6868
- Victims of violence 1-888-606-0000
- Check in phone directory for social services


 **Transferring Risk**

1. Custodianship
2. Homestay for Minors


Remember:

- Working with arms-length organizations will never eliminate your organization's risk completely. It will help to mitigate risk, and provide a stronger defense in a legal dispute, but it should be considered a risk management strategy rather than a risk transfer strategy.



 **Custodianship - Definitions**

- Guardianship > Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee
- **Custodianship > Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC)**
- **Other words** > Custodial Guardianship; Guardianship/ Custodianship; etc.

 **Revoking Custodianship**

Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC)
 Case Processing Centre Vegreville
 6212-55th Avenue
 Vegreville, AB
 T9C 1W5

- We hereby revoke the custodianship for the following student:
- Name
- Date of Birth
- Last known residence
- Former custodian name, address
- Please note, the parent of Student have been notified of this change, and were sent the attached letter.

 **Thank you!**