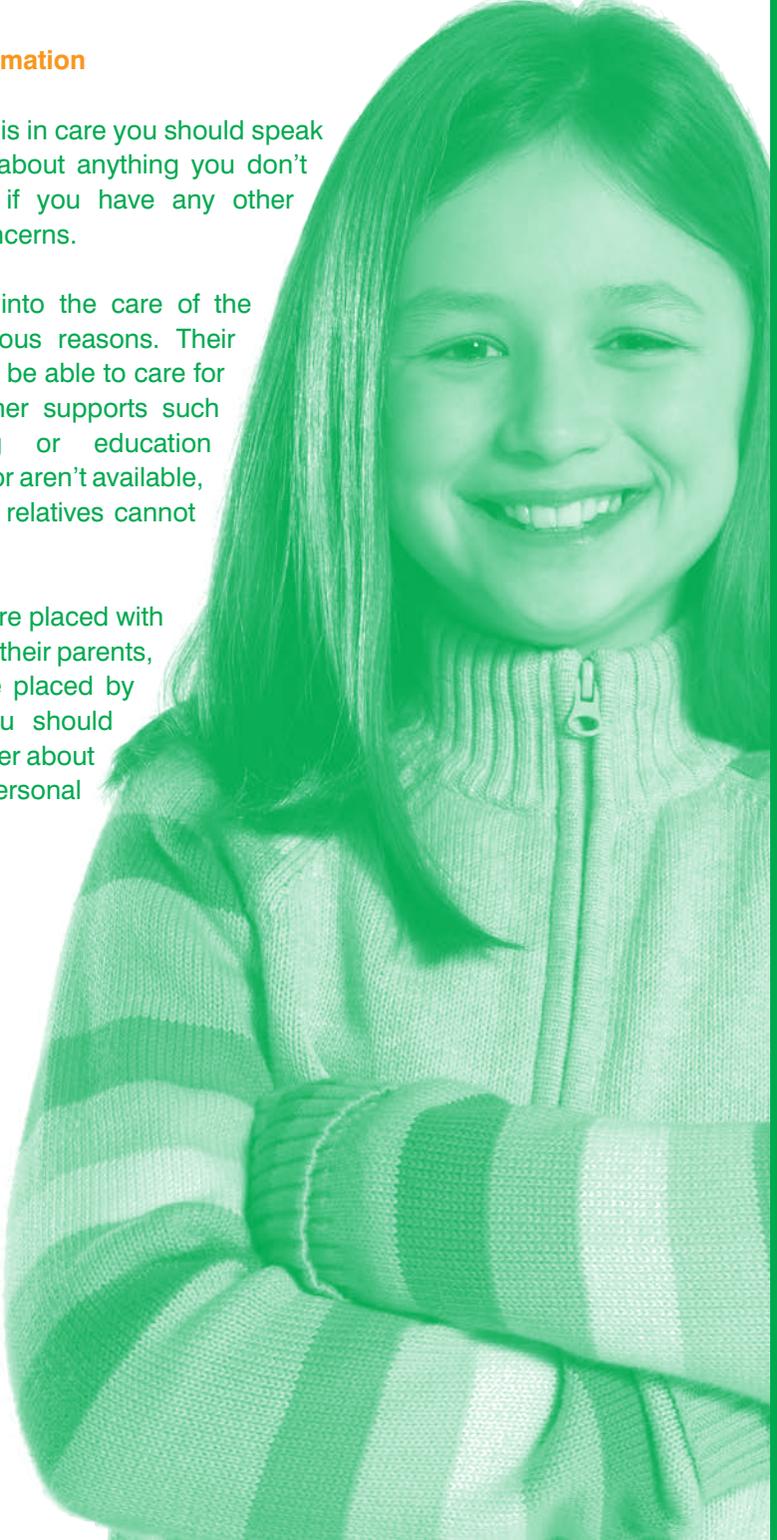


Additional Information

While your child is in care you should speak to your worker about anything you don't understand, or if you have any other questions or concerns.

Children come into the care of the Society for various reasons. Their parents may not be able to care for them safely, other supports such as counselling or education haven't worked or aren't available, and 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 worker about your child's personal situation.



Contact us

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Belleville, ON K8P 1B3
Tel: 613-962-9291
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Cobourg
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Cobourg, ON K9A 5J6
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Picton
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Highland Shores Children's Aid serves the counties of Hastings, Northumberland and Prince Edward.



**Highland Shores
CHILDREN'S AID**
Protect Care Empower

If your child is in our care



Children in our care

Length of Care

At Highland Shores Children's Aid (HSCA) 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

We offer several types of placements for children in the care of HSCA. Placements include foster homes, group homes, kinship care homes, and other kinds of residences. Some of these are managed directly by the Society, 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, and that your child's culture is observed and respected.

Caring for your child

Most children in our care, particularly young children, live with foster families. The family caring for your child has 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 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'll 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'll be asked to make a contribution, if you're able to do so. Your 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 Society to decide it is not in your child's best interest. These visits may occur at your home, in the community, or at the place where your child is living. You and your 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 the Society's care.

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

If you and your worker can't sort it out, ask to speak to the worker's supervisor. If you, the worker and the supervisor can't resolve the problem, the Society 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 Society, 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 Society to decide, that 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 afterschool recreational activities
- The right to freedom from physical abuse or punishment, and from emotional, sexual and verbal abuse
- The right to practice 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.