RACIAL DISPARITIES IN ONTARIO’S CHILD PROTECTIONS SYSTEM

According to the 2013 Ontario Incidence Study of Reported Abuse and Neglect, the numbers of children likely to be investigated as possible victims of child abuse or neglect compared to white children:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Aboriginal Children</th>
<th>Black Children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investigated</td>
<td>130% more likely</td>
<td>40% more likely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have maltreatment confirmed</td>
<td>15% more likely</td>
<td>18% more likely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taken from homes and put into care</td>
<td>168% more likely</td>
<td>13% more likely</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

THE CONNECTION TO POVERTY

Children at risk are usually from poor families, where families struggle with:

- Lack of food
- Lack of clothing
- Lack of affordable housing

HOW LEGAL AID ONTARIO CAN HELP

Before Court Papers Are Served

- Customary care agreement
- Special needs agreement
- Temporary care agreement
- Participation in an Aboriginal alternative dispute resolution process

Client can choose a legal aid lawyer, who will provide up to 10 hours of legal advice and negotiation.

In Family Court

A legal aid lawyer can represent you in court with:

- Crown wardship
- Society wardship
- Supervision order
- Status review
- Openness application
- Third party application

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call us toll-free at 1-800-668-8282. If possible, have the following available:

- All papers you have received from children’s aid, the courts, or the police
- All agreements you have signed or have been asked to sign
- Information about your lawyer

Sources:

- "Aboriginal Law" (June 2013, Ministry of Attorney General, Toronto, Ontario)
- "Aboriginal Children’s Aid Society" (Ontario, Canada)
- "Provincial Report on Child Protection Case Management I" (Ontario, Canada, 2013)
- "Aboriginal Children’s Aid Society” (Ontario, Canada)
- "The Ontario Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect”, 2013