



PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

To ensure access to all Indigenous people in Ontario, regardless of their status, receive the best available legal and justice related services prior to, during and following a court appearance and to also maintain the effectiveness of those services.

To reduce the sense of alienation experienced by Indigenous persons who are in conflict with the and to bridge the cultural and linguistic

FUNDED BY:

MINISTRY OF THE

ATTORNEY GENERAL



For further program information of if you have anything you would like to discuss, please contact the Family and Youth Court Worker at one of these locations:

Indigenous Court Workers Office

**Kenora Court House:
(Lower Level)**

**216 Water Street
Telephone: (807) 468-
9657/9372**

Fax: (807) 468-7384

-or-

Ne-Chee Friendship Centre

**Box 241, 326 2nd Street South
Kenora, ON P9N 3X3**

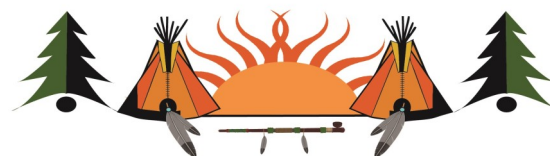
Tel: (807) 468-5440



OFIFC

Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres

INDIGENOUS FAMILY & YOUTH COURTWORKER



Ne-Chee Friendship Centre



Family And Youth Courtworker Will:

- Assist Indigenous parents, guardians, relations and/or young persons who become involved with the Family and/ or the Child Protection court matters or process.
- Assist Indigenous youth, parents, guardians, and/or relations who become involved with the Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA).
- Explain the procedures of Family Court.
- Assist Indigenous individuals by acting as a liaison between the individual, family, service providers, and the court; by ensuring both parties are being treated equally.
- Provide information about Legal Aid if the client cannot afford a lawyer. Obtain the services of an interpreter if needed.
- Explain to clients the decisions that the court makes at various stages of the family's case.
- Explain the family's rights and responsibilities under the law.
- Work with community agencies to help the family to meet their immediate and long term needs and goals in relation to a court process.
- Provide equal services and treatment to separating parties when both parties voluntarily agree.
- Work with parents or families in the case of child apprehension by CAS, to ensure that all proper steps are taken to protect the child and if possible, reunite the family.
- To promote Friendship Centre programs available for clients and ensure that clients' needs are being addressed.
- To ensure open rights and custody cases get equal information and moral support.
- To provide a variety of support services to clients and provide information on community services.
- To help Young Offenders to understand their rights and responsibilities and to refer them to the appropriate support services.

The Indigenous Family Court Worker and the Community:

- Conduct public education/ prevention workshops for the Aboriginal community relevant to the area of Aboriginal families, children and youth justices related issues.
- Participate in the community development of prevention programs and with emphasis on youth to reduce the incidence of crime; and assist in the development and delivery of Aboriginal Community Justice Programs.

The Indigenous Family Court Worker will **NOT**:

- Provide legal advice
- Act as a language interpreter for the court
- Act as a probation Officer to parole or probationed youth
- Select a lawyer for their clients, but will provide a list of lawyers.