



# JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### What is Jordan's Principle?

**Jordan's Principle** is meant to prevent First Nations children from being denied essential services or experiencing delays in receiving them. Jordan's Principle:

- ▶ applies to all First Nations children
- ▶ involves all jurisdictional disputes, between federal departments or between federal and provincial governments
- ▶ provides payment for needed services by the government or department that first receives the request

To fully implement Jordan's Principle, Canada is working to:

1. resolve situations where governments and departments cannot agree about who should pay for services and supports to meet the needs of a First Nations child
2. cover the costs for health and social services and supports for First Nations children in situations when a First Nations child does not have access to a publicly funded program usually available to other children
3. facilitate access to all services and supports for all First Nations children without delay or disruption

Canada's approach to supporting Jordan's Principle includes proactive measures to help prevent any delay in accessing needed services by First Nations children.

### Are all First Nations children with an identified need included under Jordan's Principle?

Yes. All First Nations children with an identified need for a publicly funded health or social service or support are included, regardless of their health or social status, or place of residency (on or off reserve).

### Is there a difference in services and supports if a First Nations child lives on or off a reserve?

Under Jordan's Principle, a First Nations child is eligible for the same services if they live on or off a reserve. A child should see no difference in accessing publicly funded services and supports regardless of where he/she lives.

### What services and supports are included?

If a First Nations child needs a publicly funded health or social service or support that other Canadian children receive, and cannot access it through existing programs in the community, then it is an eligible service or support through the Child-First Initiative.

So far, coverage has been provided for a variety of services and supports, including:

- ▶ respite care
- ▶ mental health services
- ▶ rehabilitative therapies
- ▶ services for children in care
- ▶ transportation to appointments
- ▶ medical supplies and equipment
- ▶ special education supports and services
- ▶ long-term care for children with specialized needs

### Who do children or families contact to get access to services and supports?

Anyone who is aware of a First Nation child who is not receiving the health and social services and supports he/she needs, is encouraged to contact us through:

- ▶ the regional Jordan's Principle Focal Point contact
- ▶ the regional office of Health Canada or Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

### How are local services being coordinated?

Local Service Coordinators will help identify First Nations children in need and act as the primary local contact for First Nations children and families. The Service Coordinators will work closely with the regional Jordan's Principle Focal Point contacts.

## Who are Service Coordinators and how can they help children and families get access to services and supports?

Local Service Coordinators are being staffed across Canada to provide children and families with a knowledgeable local resource to help them navigate the full range of existing federal and provincial health and social programs and services to address their needs. The Service Coordinator role includes:

- ▶ outreach to local communities
- ▶ intake, assessment and coordination
- ▶ case management
- ▶ data collection, analysis and reporting to support Jordan's Principle implementation and longer-term policy and program reforms

The Service Coordination function will be delivered by one or several existing service delivery organizations in each region (e.g., Tribal Councils, Regional Health Authorities, Indigenous Non-Governmental Organizations or other provincially mandated organizations). They will be funded by Health Canada through Contribution Agreements.

## How quickly are requests processed under Jordan's Principle?

The Service Access Resolution Fund is used to pay for services and supports that cannot be covered under any other existing federal, provincial or territorial program. To avoid delays or disruptions in services to children, requests are processed within 5 to 7 business days, and all urgent requests are addressed within 24 hours. Once a request is processed, the requester will be contacted to discuss next steps.

## What is the Child-First Initiative?

One of the new policy activities that has been put in place to support Jordan's Principle is the Child-First Initiative. This three-year initiative, announced in July 2016, aims to facilitate and improve access to health and social services and supports for First Nations children. The Child-First Initiative will:

- ▶ improve access to services and supports for First Nations children; and
- ▶ help Canada, provinces and territories, and service providers understand the extent to which First Nations children experience difficulties in getting the services they need, including possible gaps in coverage and services that are particularly vulnerable to disputes.

In 2016, the Government of Canada committed up to \$382.5 million over three years for the Child-First Initiative. It includes:

- ▶ enhanced service coordination to help proactively identify children with needs and address them
- ▶ a fund to address the unmet health or social needs of First Nations children that may arise from jurisdictional service gaps or unavailable services in a First Nations community

- ▶ ongoing engagement with First Nations, provinces and territories
- ▶ data collection, analysis and reporting to support Jordan's Principle implementation and longer-term policy and program reforms

## Why doesn't Jordan's Principle have its own fund to cover services and supports?

Jordan's Principle is about meeting the needs of all First Nations children immediately and over the long term. We are working closely with our First Nations partners to build a structure of well-coordinated care for the years to come. Funding required for the long-term structure has not yet been determined so a fund has been set up under the Child-First Initiative to cover immediate needs.

## How does Jordan's Principle work with the Non-Insured Benefits (NIHB) Program?

Any request submitted for a First Nations child with an identified need that is not funded under NIHB may be considered for coverage.

## What if a First Nations child doesn't have their status registration number yet?

If the child is under one year old, then the parent/guardian status registration number will be used. If the child is older than one year old, but is eligible to be registered, then the child will still be covered under Jordan's Principle. In cases where a registration number is required to access a service, the parent/guardian status registration number will be used.

## Does Jordan's Principle apply to First Nations children living in the territories?

Yes, First Nations children in all three territories are covered by Jordan's Principle

## Can families appeal decisions under Jordan's Principle?

Yes, appeals should be submitted in writing to the regional Focal Point contact. The Jordan's Principle Focal Point will work with the child and/or their family throughout the appeal process to provide advice and guidance, and will submit the appeal to Health Canada.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information about **JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE** and how to access services and supports, call **1-800-567-9604** or visit **[www.canada.ca/jordans-principle](http://www.canada.ca/jordans-principle)**.