

Professional Resource

JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE -

ACCESS TO SUPPORTS FOR FIRST NATIONS CHILDREN AND YOUTH



WHAT IS IT?

Jordan's Principle is a child-first principle that ensures that all First Nations children (under age 19 in BC) can access the products, services, and supports they need, when they need them.

Jordan's Principle recognizes that First Nation children may need government services that exceed the normative standard of care and will evaluate the individual needs of the child on a case-by-case basis to ensure substantive equality, culturally appropriate services, and/or to safeguard the best interests of the child. Substantive equality means giving extra help when it is needed so First Nations children have an equal chance to thrive.

WHO QUALIFIES?

- Registered First Nations children living on or off reserve.
- First Nations children entitled to be registered under the Indian Act, including those who became entitled to register under the December 22, 2017 amended provisions of the Indian Act under Bill S-3.
- Non-status Indigenous children who are ordinarily resident on reserve.
- First Nations children without Indian Act status, or not eligible for Indian Act status, who are living off reserve but are recognized as members by their Nation, will be provided with the services required to meet those urgent needs or life threatening needs, pursuant to Jordan's Principle.

Jordan's Principle aims to ensure that First Nations children have an equal chance to thrive.



EXAMPLES OF SUPPORTS COVERED UNDER JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE

HEALTH



- mobility aids
- wheelchair ramps
- addiction services
- services from Elders
- mental health services
- specialized hearing aids
- traditional healing services
- services for children in care
- assessments and screenings
- appointment transportation
- medical supplies and equipment
- long-term care for children with specialized needs
- therapeutic services for individuals or groups (speech therapy, physiotherapy, occupational therapy)

SOCIAL



- social worker
- land-based activities
- personal support worker
- specialized summer camps
- respite care (individual or group)
- specialized programs based on cultural beliefs and practices

EDUCATION



- school supplies
- tutoring services
- teaching assistants
- specialized school transportation
- psycho-educational assessments
- assistive technologies and electronics



HOW CAN YOU ACCESS JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE?

If you believe your patient may have a case of interest to Jordan's Principle, please direct the parent or guardian to contact either the Jordan's Principle Enhanced Service Coordination Hub for BC or Indigenous Services Canada.

- [Please click here](#) for information on the [Jordan's Principle Enhanced Service Coordination Hub for BC](#).
- [Please click here](#) for information from the Indigenous Services Canada website, or enter this link into your browser bit.ly/bcpsindigenous

The case starts with a simple application form filled out by the parent or guardian (pediatricians can assist in this) and supporting documentation. The BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS) can connect families with a Service Coordinator in their area to support them filling out the form, provide guidance to professionals and other requestors, and answer questions related to Jordan's Principle eligibility, requests, and service delivery in BC. Indigenous Services Canada is responsible for review and evaluation of the requests.

Thanks to Indigenous Services Canada for reviewing this document and allowing us to copy information from their own materials to add to this document.

The information in this document is drawn from a variety of sources and was accurate at the time of publication. BCPS acknowledges that this information may be subject to change.