



ADR-Link provides access to several streams of service for families/youth involved with Children's Aid Society offices. Brochures are available for each service:

- **Family Group Conferencing**
- **Indigenous Approaches to ADR**
- **Child Protection Mediation**
- **Ready, Set, Go**
- **4th Option**

› **What Is Ready, Set, Go (RSG)?**

- Support offered to youth to understand and plan for transition and long-term well-being with the emphasis on preparing them for success throughout their teens and up to 23 years of age
- Driven by policy directive, CW 003-23 - Preparing Youth for Successful Transition from the Care of Children's Aid Societies (Province of Ontario, April 1, 2023, section 42 of the Child Youth Family Services Act (CYFSA).
- The importance of the youth's input on the direction, access and level of support is one of the key drivers of the program
- Six core dimensions are built upon: health, education, identity, family and social relationships, emotional and behavioural development and self-care skills. Each of these are considered from the youth's perspective with appropriate guidance in the context of age, culture, maturity and experience in order to support their eventual transition out of care and long term success

› **Who Is Eligible?**

- Youth 13–23 in interim society care for a period of 12 consecutive months with anticipated extended society care
- 16 or 17 years old and in a Voluntary Youth Services Agreement (VYSA)
- In a customary care agreement supervised by a society, and in consultation with each of the youth's bands and FNMI communities
- Youth between 18-23, must meet additional criteria according to section 124 of CYFSA and associated regulations

› **What Services Are Offered?**

- Youth must be offered the RSG program at set intervals (see What Is the Structure?)
- Youth participation is completely voluntary at all times
- All ADR RSG services are free of charge for participants

› **What Is the Structure?**

- At the youth's 13th birthday, the society is required to examine the Action and Assessment Record (AAR), and the Plan of Care process, with a transition lens applied
- Following the youth's 15th birthday, and no later than three months before their 16th birthday, the society must offer the youth an opportunity to participate in a conference or other forum to support formal transition planning.
- Prior to the youth's 18th birthday, and 23rd birthday the society must document the completion of the checklist provided (see MCCSS)

Our ADR practitioners are excited to contribute to the success of youth in care along with CAS workers.





| | Purpose of Conference | Guest List | Authorship of Plan | Who Coordinates? | When to Refer? | Private Time | CAS Concerns to be addressed | Conference Preparation | Approval of Plan | Follow-up Conferences |
|--|---|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------|--|---|---|---|--|--|
| Traditional Family Group Conferencing | Decision Making, Permanency Planning, Safety Planning | Family, Collective Decision | Family network is author of Plan | Independent Coordinator | Must be considered at any point in time there is a dispute to be resolved | Yes Professionals and service providers do not participate | CAS concerns to be addressed, guidelines for planning | Critical and includes all participants with focus on primary caregivers/parents | CAS approves family's plan based on whether CAS concerns have been addressed | May be offered to the family network as a touch base to see how the plan is working |
| Youth Led Conferences | Transitions, Goal Setting, Safety | Youth decides | Youth and their network of support author the Plan | Independent Coordinator | At any point of change, decision, or major life event Often at 17-19 yrs of age and 20-21 yrs of age | Flexible based on youths' wishes. Service providers (foster parents, counsellor, etc) may participate | Flexible Goals/Hopes Youth decides | Critical and includes all participants with focus on youth | CAS, and all participants are asked how they can support the plan and what they see as the next steps | May be offered to youth as a touch base to see how plan is working |
| Ready, Set, Go (RSG) | Planning for long term success and transition from care | Youth decides | Youth and their network of support author the Plan | Independent Coordinator | 3 main time frames 1. within 9 months following youth's 15th birthday 2. prior to the youth's 18th birthday 3. prior to the youth's 23rd birthday | Flexible based on youths' wishes. Service providers (foster parents, counsellor, etc) may participate | Youth decides they're ready to plan for related to transition from care, incl. the following areas (as identified in the Directive): health, education, identity, family & social relationships, well-being, self-care skills | Critical and includes all participants, with focus on youth | Youth, CAS, and all participants are asked how they can support the plan and what they see as the next steps | Yes, additional conferences are offered at regular intervals of 3-6 months. Follow up conferences may also be offered if appropriate for the plan and/or at any other point of change, decision, or major life event |

› Refer Youth to ADR-Link

- Youth must be offered access to a conference, preferably ADR, at prior to 15, 17 and prior to 23 years of age (they may engage at 13 if they wish to have help with the AAR and Plan of Care Process)
- Youth will benefit by working with an ADR practitioner specifically trained to assist them as they question, explore and plan for their futures during and after their involvement with CAS
- ADR-Link will ideally match youth with practitioners who will remain their consistent support at any stage of engagement with RSG

› Where Can I Find More Info About RSG?

The policy directive CW 003-23 and general program information are available on the Government of Ontario website.

› What if I'm Not Satisfied With the Process?

Please reach out to ADR-Link@lfcc.on.ca to offer feedback.

Or contact us another way

- **Phone:** 519-282-6991
- **Fax:** 519-679-4234
- **Web:** www.adr-link.ca

ADR-Link connects parties in dispute with an independent Child Protection Mediation Practitioner, Family Group Conference Practitioner, Indigenous Approach or Ready, Set, Go Practitioner. None of the Practitioners are employees of London Family Court Clinic (LFCC) or affiliated with LFCC. All mediators are certified in child protection mediation by the Ontario Association for Family Mediation and listed on its roster. All family group conference coordinators have been trained and mentored through the George Hull Centre and are listed on its roster. By participating in ADR-Link services, you acknowledge that ADR services are not provided by LFCC and agree to hold harmless ADR-Link and LFCC for any and all claims, actions, suits etc brought against ADR-Link directly or indirectly.

ADR-Link is administered by London Family Court Clinic - info@lfcc.on.ca for contact