

What It Means To Be a Change Agent

You will always be in the process of development.

You will find yourself often being alone and feeling marginal.

You will find yourself experiencing higher and higher levels of resistance.

You will get more in touch with what it means to move in and to move out.

You will need to be caring and confrontive; guiding and directive.

You will keep trying to see situations with different eyes.

Edges of your patience will be pushed (for nothing moves fast enough).

You will know rejection intimately.

You will constantly be revisiting your own values.

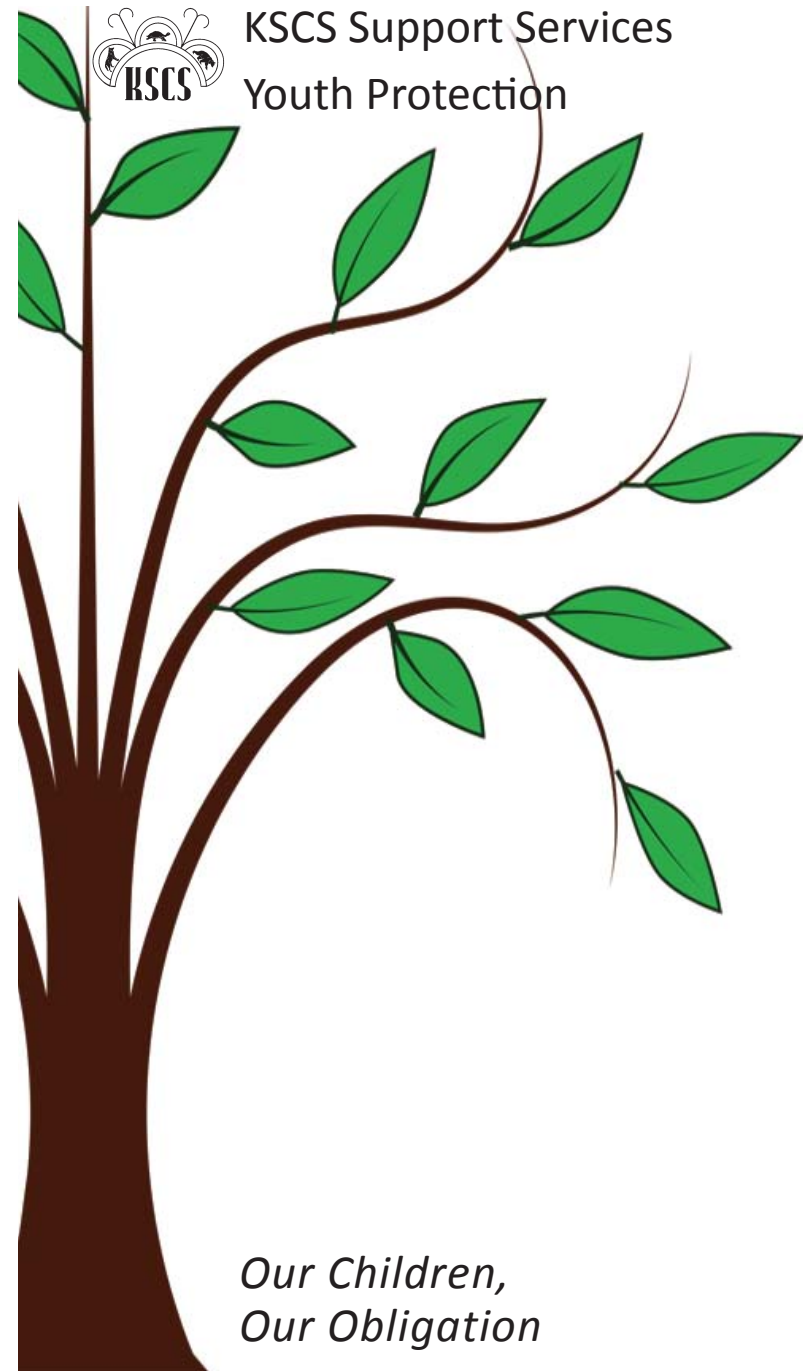
You will struggle between doing what the client needs and what you need or want.

Your honesty with yourself will enable you to relate to others.

You will truly be yourself only when you know yourself.

Your greatest joy will be what you can do for others so that they can do for themselves.

- Dave Jamieson



*Our Children,
Our Obligation*

The security or development of a child *is* considered to be in danger when the child finds himself in one of the following situations (s. 38 YPA)

Abandonment (s.38a)

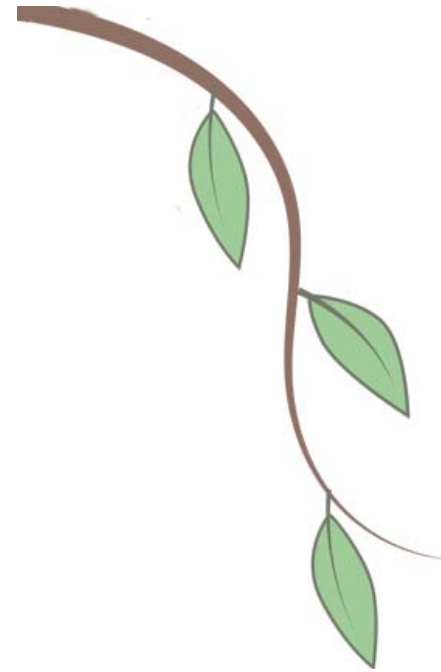
A situation in which a child's parents are deceased or fail to provide for the child's care, maintenance or education and those responsibilities are **not assumed by another person** in accordance with the child's needs.

Some indicators:

1. Child no longer lives with his parents and has no permanent address;
2. Child says he was kicked out of the house;
3. Parents are deceased and no one else has assumed parental responsibilities.

Neglect (S.38b)

1. A situation in which the child's parents or the person having custody of the child do not meet the child's basic needs:
 - I. Failing to meet the child's physical needs with respect to food, clothing, hygiene or lodging, taking into account their resources;
 - II. Failing to give the child the care required for the child's physical or mental health, or not allowing the child to receive such care;
 - III. Failing to provide the child with the appropriate supervision or support, or failing to take the necessary steps to provide the child with schooling;



Ensure that the child is provided with schooling either at school or in another environment, according to the Education Act;

Take steps to encourage the child and his parents to correct the situation.

Abandonment by parents after a placement by virtue of the *Act Respecting Health Services and Social Services* (s. 38.1c)

If the child's parents do not carry out their obligations to provide the child with care, maintenance and education or do not exercise stable supervision over him, while he has been entrusted to the care of an institution or foster family for one year.

These three situations are addressed differently because it is not automatically assumed that the child's security or development is in danger or that the child needs protection. However, depending on the circumstances, these situations may require the DYP's intervention.



2. A situation in which there is a serious risk that a child's parents or the person having custody of the child are not providing for the child's basic needs in the manner referred to in subparagraph 1 (in terms of physical needs, health and schooling). *

Some indicators:

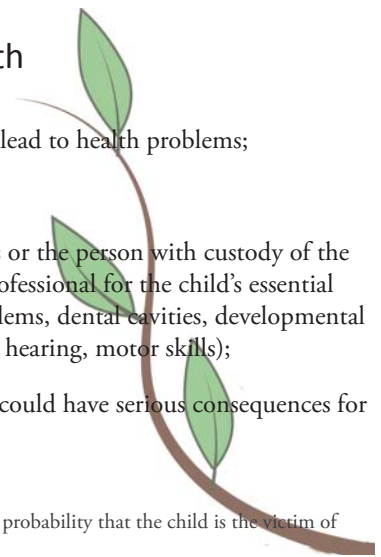
Neglect in terms of physical needs

- ☞ Lacking, insufficient or inadequate food;
- ☞ Child seeks out food;
- ☞ Continual lack of hygiene;
- ☞ Inappropriate clothing for the season;
- ☞ Child's living environment is unhealthy;
- ☞ Child's living conditions are inadequate or pose a risk of injury for the child;
- ☞ Hazardous substances or objects accessible to child;
- ☞ Lack of family home.

Neglect in terms of health

- ☞ Severe malnutrition that could lead to health problems;
- ☞ Untreated illnesses or wounds;
- ☞ Refusal of or neglect by parents or the person with custody of the child to consult a healthcare professional for the child's essential needs (e.g., mental health problems, dental cavities, developmental delays or problems with vision, hearing, motor skills);
- ☞ Improper use of medicine that could have serious consequences for the child.

* The notion of serious risk refers to a strong probability that the child is the victim of neglect, sexual abuse or physical abuse.



Neglect in terms of schooling

- ✂ Lack of age-appropriate stimulation for the child in terms of language, motor, social or intellectual skills;
- ✂ Inappropriate choice of caregiver;
- ✂ Lack of stable routine;
- ✂ Child's education limited or inhibited by parents or the person with custody of the child;
- ✂ Lack of support by parents or the person with custody of the child;
- ✂ Insufficient supervision by parents or the person with custody of the child, based on the child's needs.

Psychological Ill-Treatment (s. 38c)



A situation in which a child is **seriously or repeatedly** subjected to behaviour on the part of the child's parents or another person that could **cause harm** to the child, and the child's parents fail to take the necessary steps to put an end to the situation. Such behaviour includes in particular **indifference, denigration, emotion rejection, isolation, threats, exploitation, particularly if the child is forced to do work disproportionate to the child's capacity, and exposure to conjugal or domestic violence.**

Some indicators:

- ✂ Child often says he is good for nothing;
- ✂ Child says he is not allowed to have friends, appears socially isolated;
- ✂ Child says he feels rejected by parents;
- ✂ Child often fixates on death (through words or drawings);

The DYP intervenes only in situations where there are indicators of serious behavioural disturbance
AND
if parents do not take steps to protect their child
OR
if the child is aged 14 or older and objects to the proposed support services.

The security or development of a child *may be* considered to be in danger when the child finds himself in one of the following situations (s. 38.1 YPA)



Runaway (s. 38.1a)

If the child leaves his own home, a foster family, a facility maintained by an institution operating a rehabilitation centre or a hospital centre without authorization while his situation is not under the responsibility of the director of youth protection.

Truancy (s. 38.1b)

If the child is of school age and does not attend school, or is frequently absent without reason.

According to the Education Act, all Quebec children, from age 6 until the end of the school year during which they attain 16 years of age, are required to attend school.

Parents must take the necessary steps to make sure that their children are provided with schooling.

Before filing a report, the school principal must:

Serious Behavioural Disturbance (s. 38f)

A situation in which a child behaves in such a way as to repeatedly or seriously undermine the child's or others' physical or psychological integrity, and the child's parents fail to take the necessary steps to put an end to the situation or, if the child is 14 or over, the child objects to such steps.

Some indicators:

- ⌘ Child constantly isolates himself (e.g., passiveness, lack of friends, withdrawal);
- ⌘ Child displays frequent and uncontrollable aggression and violence;
- ⌘ Child abuses drugs or alcohol or has compulsive gambling problems;
- ⌘ Child engages in self-harm;
- ⌘ Child demonstrates suicidal behaviour;
- ⌘ Child develops eating disorder (e.g., anorexia or bulimia);
- ⌘ Child exhibits inappropriate or risky sexual behaviours;
- ⌘ Child runs away repeatedly;
- ⌘ Child engages in bullying or persistent intimidation;
- ⌘ Child associates with people who have a bad influence and who accentuate his behavioural problems;
- ⌘ Parents exhibit personal limitations (e.g., too permissive, inconsistent or strict);
- ⌘ Parents deny or trivialize the situation;
- ⌘ Parents give up on their child's behaviour.

- ⌘ Child says he is exhausted and must work at home;
- ⌘ Child is afraid of a parent or someone living with him;
- ⌘ Child is often exposed to conjugal or domestic violence (verbal, physical or psychological violence);
- ⌘ Child regularly witnesses criminal activities at home;
- ⌘ Parents frequently denigrate the child (e.g., belittling comparisons, use of negative nicknames);
- ⌘ Parents constantly threaten to abandon or place the child with others.

Sexual Abuse (s. 38.d)

1. A situation in which the child is subjected to gestures of a sexual nature by the child's parents or another person, **with or without contact**, and the child's parents fail to take the necessary steps to put an end to the situation;
2. A situation in which the child runs a **serious risk** of being subjected to gestures of a sexual nature by the child's parents or another person, with or without physical contact, and the child's parents fail to take the necessary steps to put an end to the situation. *



Some indicators:

- ⌘ Child says he has been subjected to sexual acts;
- ⌘ Child complains of genital pain;
- ⌘ child exhibits precocious sexual behaviour;

* The notion of serious risk refers to a strong probability that the child is the victim of neglect, sexual abuse or physical abuse.

- ⌘ Child has knowledge of sexual behaviours that is not age-appropriate;
- ⌘ Child suffers from a sexually transmitted infection (STI) at a young age;
- ⌘ Child mentions pornographic experiences;
- ⌘ Child is afraid to go home, prefers to stay at school or daycare;
- ⌘ Child says his parents do not respect his privacy;
- ⌘ Child refuses to undergo a medical exam;
- ⌘ Child is afraid of a particular adult;
- ⌘ Child displays abrupt changes in his usual behaviour (e.g., sudden drop in academic performance, loss of appetite);
- ⌘ Child suffers from incontinence, stomach aches, frequent vomiting, nightmares, insomnia;
- ⌘ Child has in his possession objects or money of unknown origin;
- ⌘ An adult exhibits an unusual interest in the child.

Physical Abuse (s. 38e)

1. A situation in which the child is the victim of **bodily injury or is subjected to unreasonable methods of upbringing** by his parents or another person, and the child's parents fail to take the necessary steps to put an end to the situation;
2. A situation in which the child runs a **serious risk** of becoming the victim of bodily injury or being subjected to unreasonable methods of upbringing by his parents or another person, and the child's parents fail to take the necessary steps to put an end to the situation. *

Some indicators:

- ⌘ Child presents signs of having been struck, bodily injuries or unexplained bruises;
- ⌘ Child has unexplained fractures or repeated injuries;
- ⌘ Child says parents hit him for not listening to them;
- ⌘ Child says parents hurt another child in the family;
- ⌘ Child cries inexplicably;
- ⌘ Child is afraid to go home, prefers to stay at school or daycare;
- ⌘ Child cringes when approached quickly, as if expecting to be hit;
- ⌘ Child is aggressive towards adults or peers;
- ⌘ Child refuses to undergo a medical exam;
- ⌘ Child displays abrupt changes in his usual behaviour (e.g., sudden drop in academic performance, loss of appetite);
- ⌘ Parents use unreasonable methods to bring up or discipline their child (e.g., use of objects such as a belt or stick, isolation in a closed space for long periods of time);
- ⌘ Parents give evasive or contradictory explanations about the child's injuries or behaviours;
- ⌘ Parents try to hide child's injuries.

All cases of sexual or physical abuse must be reported to the DYP regardless of the perpetrator of the abuse and the steps taken by the parents.

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