

# What is the Children's Aid Society of Ottawa (CASO)?



The Children's Aid Society of Ottawa (CASO) is a community organization legally mandated to protect children and youth from abuse and neglect.

We are one of 47 agencies in Ontario that work to keep children safe, provide support and other services to parents; and when necessary provide safe and nurturing care for children and youth who are unable to live at home because of family problems.

We provide service 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Outside of regular business hours, a team of workers are available to respond to situations where children may be at risk.

In the majority of situations, we are able to protect children while they continue to live in their own homes.

We work in collaboration with families and other members of the community to ensure children and youth remain safe. Sometimes the risk of harm is such that the child or youth can not be protected at home or by extended family, and temporary care is provided either with kin or in a foster home.

Should a child is in the care of the Society, every effort is made to help the child remain connected to his or her family whenever possible. During the child or youth's stay in care we provide the best possible opportunities for growth and development.

We strive to provide services that respect diversity of race, religion, spirituality, sexual orientation, ability, language, and culture.