



## GOAL

Ensure that the rights and interests of children, youth and young adults are protected and upheld, and that their views are heard and considered by decision-makers.

### Who do RCY Advocates help?

Children and youth receiving reviewable services or programs provided or funded by government including: services under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*, early childhood development or child care, addiction services for children, mental health services for children, Child in the Home of a Relative support, services under the *Adoption Act*, services under the *Youth Justice Act*, services under the *Community Living Authority Act*, and additional services or programs prescribed by regulation under the *Representative for Children and Youth Act*.

Reviewable services are generally either provided by or funded by the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) or a Delegated Aboriginal Agency and include services to:

- children and youth in care
- young people under a youth agreement
- young people in custody
- children and youth with special needs
- youth with special needs transitioning to adult services
- young adults from their 19<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> birthday who:
  - are eligible to receive services from Community Living BC, or
  - are on or are eligible for an Agreement with Young Adults, or
  - are eligible for a provincial post-secondary tuition waiver.

### How can we help children, youth and young adults?

- Discuss rights and what to do if those rights are ignored
- Help with connections to services and the programs they need
- Provide support to speak up in a way that might solve their problem
- Be a part of discussions about the care and services they receive and the decisions made about them
- Assist transitions out of MCFD care
- Assist transitions for those eligible for Community Living BC services
- Assist in connections with the tuition waiver and Agreement with Young Adults programs.

### What we can't do

- Override decisions made by ministries, child- and youth-serving organizations, or CLBC
- Speak for children and youth in a law court or influence legal decisions made about them
- Represent children in custody or access matters or change these arrangements
- Provide child protection services
- Act on behalf of a young person in a Representation Agreement or application for Committeeship.