



Additional Mandatory Reporting Obligations for RDs

In December 2015, a Bill was passed in the provincial legislature to amend the *Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth Act, 2007*. These amendments included an obligation on agencies and service providers to inform the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth promptly if they become aware of the death or critical injury of a child or youth and a children's aid society (CAS) has been involved with the child or youth, or with the child's or youth's family, within 12 months of the death or critical injury. Agencies and service providers are also required to provide those parents and children with contact information for the Provincial Advocate.

Note that the mandatory reporting obligations regarding child abuse have not changed for RDs. If an RD has reasonable grounds to suspect, not necessarily believe, that a child is in need of protection, then that RD must still make a report to a CAS. (For details, see the College's article titled, "[Disclosing Personal Health Information to a Children's Aid Society](#)". Go to the College website and enter, "child abuse" or "mandatory reporting" in the search box.)

THE NEW OBLIGATIONS FOR DIETITIANS

- Any RD who was treating a child or youth who sustained a critical injury or died, and the CAS was involved with the client or the client's family, must report this to the Provincial Advocate within 12 months.
- Agencies and service providers (including RDs) are also required to provide those parents, child or youth (as appropriate) with contact information for the Provincial Advocate.

RDs should review the review the *Child and Family Services Act, 1990*, to ensure that they are fully aware of all of their reporting obligations. If in doubt, contact your local CAS or the College for assistance.