

Memorandum of Understanding

Between:

The Lethbridge Regional Police Service

and

Y.W.C.A. Lethbridge and District Community Safe Visitation Program

and

Southwest Child and Family Services

INTRODUCTION:

The Y.W.C.A Lethbridge and District in conjunction with Alberta Children's Services has established a "Community Safe Visitation Program" to support high risk children and families who have been impacted by family violence.

PURPOSE:

Southwest Child and Family Services shall make referrals to the YWCA Safe Visitation Program if there has been and continues to be family violence between adults during separation, and if there are concerns about risk that children or someone else could be harmed during a visit. The referral may also be in response to a court order that states that the child(ren) must be provided with the opportunity to visit with their non custodial parent.

The Lethbridge Regional Police Service, Southwest Child and Family Services and the YWCA Lethbridge and District all agree that the sharing of information regarding domestic violence cases is necessary for the delivery of a common or integrated program or service that will allow for the safe visitation of children involved in a separation related to family violence. This information sharing will allow for proper assessments to be made to ensure adequate safeguards can be implemented by the YWCA to prevent further violence taking place during the safe visitation.

AGREEMENT:

The parties hereto agree that the sharing of information in accordance with the provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding is not intended to breach their respective security policies, procedures and regulations, or any of the provisions of the "*Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*" and the "*Personal Information Protection Act*".

All sharing of information will be in relation to domestic violence cases referred to the Community Safe Visitation Program. The information shared in relation to the Community Safe Visitation Program shall not be further disclosed to any other agency or person and shall only be used for the purposes authorized herein. Use

of the information other than for an agreed purpose is expressly prohibited.

The Lethbridge Regional Police Service has a pre-existing agreement which allows Southwest Child and Family Services access to the Lethbridge Regional Police Service's databases to provide disclosure of domestic violence cases involving children. As Southwest Child and Family Services is responsible for approving all referrals for the Community Safe Visitation Program. If required, the Safe Visitation Coordinator may request police record checks on clients referred.


The Lethbridge Regional Police Service and/or Southwest Child and Family Services reserves the right to withhold any information to protect the privacy of third parties and confidential informants and to prevent any interference with law enforcement or revelation of law enforcement techniques, in accordance with the principals contained in the "*Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*".

The Lethbridge Regional Police Service will be provided participant names and the times of the visits scheduled for the Community Safe Visitation Program on a monthly basis and updated as necessary. This disclosure is to assist in the police in the event an emergency response has to be made to the YWCA due to a violent incident involving the participants.

Termination Clause:

The Chief of Police of the Lethbridge Regional Police Service and/or the Chief Executive Officer of Southwest Child and Family Services reserves the right to terminate this agreement, at any time, without prior notice, upon the determination that a breach of security or confidentiality has occurred through the improper use or dissemination of the information provided in accordance with this memorandum.

Any party may terminate this agreement, at any time, without cause, upon giving 14 days written notice to the other parties.




Tom Ascroft
Acting Chief of Police
Lethbridge Regional Police Service
Signed this 20 day of October

2011, at Lethbridge, Alberta



Kristine J. Cassie, M Sc, RSW
Chief Executive Officer
YWCA Lethbridge and District
Signed this 18 day of October

2011, at Lethbridge, Alberta



Lonnie Slezina
Chief Executive Officer
Southwest Alberta Child and Family Services Authority
Signed this 26 day of October
2011, at Lethbridge, Alberta