



CCAS

Child Protection Immigration Specialist (CPIS)

Overview of Position

- Officially introduced in February 2007 in response to a large number of cases with serious Immigration issues.
- Provincially, CCAS is the only CAS with a CPIS.
- Solely dedicated to Immigration issues.
- Collaborate and partner with immigration authorities and other CAS's to assist children and youth with Immigration issues.
- Support Services to Staff

Duties and Responsibilities

- Lobby Immigration authorities to protect children, youth and their families.
- Application for Canadian Citizenship.
- Permanent residence, Work Permits.
- H&C Applications.
- International Passports and Birth Certificates
- Attend Immigration hearings.
- Completes contact logs & closing/summary reports.

Notable Achievements

- Improved quality of Service
- Immigration Liaison Committee
- General Immigration Networking
- Strengthened relations with immigration lawyers
- Removal orders intervention

Shortfalls



- Five deportations
 - M.P. August 2006 to Mexico
 - O.H. November 2006 to Jamaica
 - R.H. April 2007 to Trinidad & Tobago
 - E.W. April 2008 to Poland
 - J.V. January 2011 to Mexico
- Unfamiliarity of institutions with CASs and it's mandate.
- Lack of funding for non-crown wards and their families

Advantages of CPIS

- A deep understanding of the child welfare system.
- Provides holistic client centered service.
- Many children and youth have limitations and special needs that require accommodation.
- Able to liaise between the needs of the CCAS, the client, the IRCC, and CBSA
- Ability to establish priorities

Advantages of CPIS

- After Care Service for youth who age out of care
- Meeting with the Minister of Child and Youth Services.
- Work together with the Provincial Advocate Office.
- Make sure that the Immigration application submitted remain active.
- Free up Social Workers time

M.F. - The Situation

- Came to the care of CCAS in 2003
- Mother has status but refused to sponsor her.
- Immigration Lawyer was involved.
- CPIS took over and submitted a H & C application on her behalf
- It took 5 years for Immigration to make a decision
- Wanted to start University as soon as she finished High School, but she couldn't due to lack of Immigration status

M.F. – The Results

- She was made a Permanent Resident after she aged out of care
- Her self-esteem was improved
- She started University as soon as she got Permanent Resident status.

Challenges

- Youth's current and past criminal proceedings
- Connecting with biological parents or alternate caregivers for permanency planning
- Obtaining identifying documentation
- Confidentiality policies of CCAS and Immigration

A Special Challenge – Immigration and Refugee Protection Act

- Outlines the Canadian government's policy in regards to foreign nationals and Immigration.
- Gives biological and adoptive parents the right to apply for Canadian citizenship, does not extend same rights to CAS's.
- IRPA supersede the CFSA



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