



EMERGENCY CHILD CARE SERVICES



CHILD CARE SUPPORT IN CHALLENGING SITUATIONS

Planning for child care emergencies is vitally important. Both the Canadian Armed Forces and Military Family Resource Centres have tools to support you through this process. Through the Military Family Services Program, Military Family Resource Centres facilitate access to short-term emergency child care services in diverse situations, in support of operational readiness.

FAMILY CARE PLAN

A Family Care Plan is a mandatory Department of National Defence form that helps prepare families of Canadian Armed Forces members in case of unforeseen events, emergency callouts and planned deployment. By identifying primary and secondary caregivers who should be contacted in the event of an emergency or military tasking, your Family Care Plan supports your family in your absence.

All Canadian Armed Forces personnel must complete the Family Care Plan (FCP) Declaration DND Form 2886. It isn't a legally binding document, but it is kept on the Canadian Armed Forces member's file. Family Care Plans are protected under the Privacy Act.

Essentially, the Family Care Plan is a regularly updated exchange of information between your family and a Commanding Officer. A completed Family Care Plan is designed to support individual and unit operational readiness.

For more information about the Family Care Plan, visit CAFconnection.ca or contact the Family Information Line at 1-800-866-4546.

MILITARY FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE EMERGENCY CHILD CARE PLANS

An Emergency Child Care Plan, like a Family Care Plan, speaks for you when you are not able to. While the Family Care Plan resides with the Canadian Armed Forces member's file, the Emergency Child Care Plan will assist the Military Family Resource Centre and/or anyone else you've designated in the event of an emergency. An up-to-date Emergency Child Care Plan lists the names and contact information of your preferred child care providers and can provide useful child care information.

Beyond the Family Care Plan, a completed Emergency Child Care Plan provides detailed personal instructions about your child including medical information, bedtimes, bus-stop times and favourite foods, to minimize the stress placed on your child when you are not with them.

An Emergency Child Care Plan form may be available at your local Military Family Resource Centre and is also available on CAFconnection.ca. We encourage you to share your completed Emergency Child Care Plan with your preferred caregivers and your Military Family Resource Centre if they can keep your plan on file, so they are prepared to assist your family as quickly as possible in a time of emergency. If the caregivers you listed are unavailable, Military Family Resource Centre staff may be able to use the information in your Emergency Child Care Plan file to ensure your child has excellent care.

Be proactive! Before an immediate need arises, connect with your local Military Family Resource Centre and work with staff to create and file an Emergency Child Care Plan.

EMERGENCY CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE

There are several programs and policies in place to help support you and your family in times of need by providing assistance in either accessing child care or covering some of the additional costs of unanticipated child care expense. Depending on your situation, you may qualify for any of the following:

MILITARY FAMILY SERVICE PROGRAM EMERGENCY CHILD CARE

If your family requires Emergency Child Care connect immediately with your local Military Family Resource Centre. Staff may support your family during a challenging situation by facilitating your access to supports and services (up to 96 hours per emergency) to help you address your short-term emergency child care needs. Depending on your specific situation and the available resources in your community, Military Family Resource Centres may assist you either by looking after your children for you, financial reimbursement, referrals or caregiver coordination. Each case is unique and will be assessed individually. Contact your local Military Family Resource Centre for further details.

Eligibility: Modern Canadian Armed Forces families will be supported by Emergency Child Care services under many unique circumstances including:

- When the Canadian Armed Forces member must report for duty on short notice, or is away on tasking and neither their primary or secondary caregiver identified on their Family Care Plan is available to care for their children;
- When your family requires emergency respite child care while the Canadian Armed Forces member is away, for essential health and well-being;
- When the Canadian Armed Forces member requires emergency short-term child care to secure essential necessities that have not already been covered through IRP within three months after posting;
- When the Canadian Armed Forces member or any member of your family has been seriously ill or injured; or when a member of the family has died.

Requests for Emergency Child Care are approved at the discretion of your local Military Family Resource Centre.

To learn more about Emergency Child Care eligibility, funding, reference documents and options for your family, visit CAFconnection.ca or your local Military Family Resource Centre.

CANADIAN ARMED FORCES FAMILY CARE ASSISTANCE

Family Care Assistance is designed to assist Canadian Armed Forces single parents and service couples by offsetting increases in the normal costs for child care or attendant care when service requires you to be absent from home for 24 hours or longer.

Eligibility: Family Care Assistance is available if:

- For service reasons, your absence is required for 24 hours or more from your family home;
- You have a dependent who is 18 years of age or younger, or is 18 years of age or older but requires assistance due to a physical or mental disability and is not receiving a pension;
- You do not have a spouse or common-law partner or your spouse/common-law partner is also a Canadian Armed Forces member who will be away from their place of duty for service reasons at the same time.

Funding: You are entitled to be reimbursed for either the daily amount established by Treasury Board or the difference between the amount paid for dependent care during the absence and the amount normally paid for care, whichever is less.

How to submit your claim: Complete form DND 2269 and submit it to your unit orderly room. Be sure to include receipts for amount paid and:

- Name, address and phone number of caregiver; and
- Dates of employment.

Reference: For additional terms and conditions, please reference:

Compensation and Benefit Instruction [CBI] 209.335 – Family Care Assistance

CANADIAN ARMED FORCES CAREGIVER ASSISTANCE BENEFIT

Ill and injured members of the Canadian Armed Forces, who suffered permanent catastrophic impairment, temporary catastrophic impairment, or a non-catastrophic impairment in Afghanistan, and have a dependent child living with them, can request reimbursement for child care payments or other caregiver expenses through their Integrated Personnel Support Centre.

The Caregiver Assistance benefit is not payable if the caregiver is a member of the Special Force, Regular Force, or Reserve Force on Class B or Class C Reserve Service, who is in receipt of pay and allowances.

To determine eligibility and parameters, or to initiate a request for reimbursement, please contact your local Integrated Personnel Support Centre.

Reference: For additional terms and conditions, please reference:

Compensation and Benefit Instruction [CBI] 211.05 – Caregiver Assistance Benefit