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WRITTEN QUESTIONS FORM

3rd Session, 65th General Assembly

Legislative Assembly of PEI

Question number: 104	Question date: October 1, 2018
Question asked by: Jamie Fox, Member for Borden-Kinkora	
Question asked of (department): Justice & Public Safety	
Question answered by (Minister): Hon. J. Brown	Date answer received by Clerk's Office: OCT 23 2018 Only

QUESTION: Since being appointed, how many cases has Catherine Chaisson , the Province's Children's Lawyer, been involved in to this date?

ANSWER:

The Office of the Children's Lawyer has investigated 76 matters or referrals requesting the intervention of the Office of the Children's Lawyer. These referrals were related to matters involving 127 children. As a result of the investigations, the Office of the Children's Lawyer has intervened in 53 high-conflict court files since the Office was created in 2017.



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Question number: 105

Question date: **October 1, 2018**

Question asked by: Jamie Fox, Member for Borden-Kinkora

Question asked of (*department*): Justice & Public Safety

Question answered by (*Minister*): *Hon. J. Brown*

Date answer received by

Clerk's Office:

OCT 23 2018

QUESTION: What is the average time the Province's Children's Lawyer requires to process a file forwarded to the said Office?

ANSWER:

The Office of the Children's Lawyer has not been in existence long enough to provide reliable statistical data on the length of time matters in which the Office intervenes are before the Court. Matters relating to custody and access are often ongoing as the needs and circumstances of children change as they grow up. The Office of the Children's Lawyer is monitoring this information and will be able to report on it in the future.



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Question number: 106	Question date: October 1, 2018
Question asked by: Jamie Fox, Member for Borden-Kinkora	
Question asked of (<i>department</i>): Justice & Public Safety	
Question answered by (<i>Minister</i>): Hon. J. Brown	Date answer received by Clerk's Office: OCT 23 2018 Only

QUESTION: Who does the Children's Lawyer report to on cases before her and to what extent?

ANSWER:

The Children's Lawyer administratively reports to the Director of Family Law and Court Services for the purposes of leave and attendance and human resource matters.

The Children's Lawyer is a barrister and solicitor called to the Bar of Prince Edward Island and a member of the Law Society of Prince Edward (LSPEI). As a member of the LSPEI, the Children's Lawyer would be subject to the professional licensing and conduct requirements of the Law Society.

A Children's Lawyer, as an independent lawyer and advocate for child(ren) clients makes decisions on case files independently in light of the instructions of the child(ren) clients, the best interests and wishes of the child(ren), and the direction of the Court and law relating to custody and access. The Children's Lawyer may brief the Court on matters involving Child(ren) clients per the direction of the Court.