

## REFERRALS

Referrals for children are accepted from individuals and families, or those acting on their behalf, if consent has been obtained.

Referral forms may be obtained by contacting the main office of SDRC at: 519-741-1121. They can also be downloaded from our website at: [www.sdrc.ca](http://www.sdrc.ca)

Upon receipt of your completed referral forms, an intake worker will arrange an appointment to discuss the referral request in more detail.

For referrals for adults 18 years and older, eligibility for developmental services must first be determined by Developmental Services Ontario. You can contact them at 519-894-1153. Once eligibility is determined a referral for services will be forwarded to SDRC on your behalf.

## INQUIRIES

Please direct inquiries, referrals, and requests for services to:



205 - 1120 Victoria St. N.  
Kitchener, Ontario N2B 3T2

Phone: 519-741-1121  
Fax: 519-743-4730

Or email us at:  
[sdrc@sunbeamcommunity.ca](mailto:sdrc@sunbeamcommunity.ca)

Website: [www.sdrc.ca](http://www.sdrc.ca)

### Satellite Offices

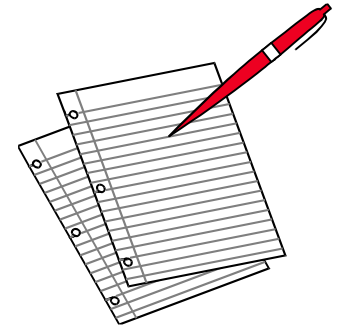
<u>Elmira:</u>	118 Barnswallow Dr. Elmira, ON N3B 2Y9
<u>Kingsway:</u>	2749 Kingsway Dr. Kitchener, ON N2C 1A7
<u>Cambridge:</u>	757 King St. E. Cambridge, ON N3H 3N8

 Ontario  
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Children, Community and Social Services



## CONSENT & DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

An Information Sheet on  
Consent for Individuals  
and Families



## INTRODUCTION

Access to developmental services is dependent upon consent of the individual to participate. SDRC staff will generally take direction from the individual unless:

- They are under sixteen years of age and not able to provide an informed consent;
- They are unable to provide consent through verbal or augmentative methods;
- The worker believes the individual has no awareness or understanding of the issue.

This is especially important for parents of teenagers to know. By age 16, many services will base service provision on the request and consent of the individual instead of a parent.

## LEGISLATION

SDRC adheres to the:

- **Child and Family Services Act**
- **Consent to Treatment Act**
- **Freedom of Information/Protection of Privacy Act**
- **Health Care Consent Act**
- **Substitute Decisions Act**

Where a person cannot provide consent, we recognize court-appointed guardians, then a spouse, a child, a parent, and a sibling (in that order). Further information on substitute decision-makers and priority ranking can be obtained through SDRC or through the Ontario Public Guardian and Trustee.

Website: [www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/family/pgt/](http://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/family/pgt/)

## INFORMED CONSENT AND WHO MAY GIVE IT

Individuals 16 years and older can give consent to a proposed action if:

1. They understand the nature of the treatment/action
2. They received proper disclosure of information from the caregiver
3. They have an opportunity to ask questions and to receive understandable answers
4. Their authorization is free of undue influence and coercion
5. Their authorization is free of misrepresentation of material information
6. They possess mental capacity and are legally competent to authorize care and treatment.

Under the law, individuals no longer have a “blanket” certificate of incompetency.

## CONSENT AND VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

Consent will be obtained from individuals 16 years and older for participation in developmental services’ programs (or making referral to them) and for sharing of information with parents, services, or others within the person’s support network.

Participation in developmental programs and services is always voluntary. Service providers cannot “compel” participation or acceptance of a service.

## WHAT IF THE INDIVIDUAL IS UNABLE TO PROVIDE CONSENT?

There are some situations where an individual may not be able to provide their own consent. For example, the individual may not be able to communicate using words, and does not communicate in other ways (e.g., PECS, sign language, etc.)

In such an event, SDRC would follow the guidelines provided in provincial legislation regarding guardianship of the person. These guidelines can be reviewed on request.

## WHAT IF MY WISHES DIFFER FROM MY ADULT CHILD’S WISHES?

SDRC must have an individual’s consent before proceeding with a referral for services. If an individual is verbally able to state that they do not wish involvement with our agency, we cannot provide further assistance. In this event, guardianship status must be verified before SDRC can proceed further.

For more information about the parameters within which developmental services work, please contact us at 519-741-1121.