

Disability Services Indigenous Identity Declaration Questions and Answers

Why is the Department of Families collecting information about Indigenous identity?

Knowing the cultural makeup of Indigenous participants accessing its disability services will help the Department of Families understand who it is serving and how its services are meeting the needs Indigenous participants. This information will help the department plan and provide culturally safe and appropriate disability services for Indigenous participants.

Is providing Indigenous identity information mandatory? Will it affect any of the services individuals may access if this information is not provided?

No. Providing Indigenous identity information is entirely voluntary. The responses, including the choice to not declare Indigenous identity, will not impact any services individuals receive or their eligibility for those services.

Why is the Department of Families asking for registration numbers?

Individual registration numbers may be used by the Department of Families to plan and coordinate services with other Manitoba government departments or other levels of government. Providing this information is voluntary.

What if an individual changes their mind about declaring their Indigenous identity?

Individuals may change or revoke their Indigenous identity information by contacting their case manager.

How will the information be protected?

This information is protected by *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, also known as FIPPA. It will be retained within each individual's case file. Access to these files is restricted to authorized Department of Families staff who require it to plan, deliver and improve services. Any disclosure of this information for the purposes of service coordination will meet requirements set out in FIPPA.

Who will have access to the Indigenous identity information?

The information may be accessed by Department of Families staff with the Children's disABILITY Services, Community Living disABILITY Services or Provincial Alternative Support Services programs. The information is protected in accordance with FIPPA.

What if I have more questions about the collection and use of this information?

If you have any questions, please contact your Community Service Worker (CSW). If you do not have a CSW, participants of Children's disABILITY Services can contact 204-945-8311 and Community Living disABILITY Services participants can contact 204-945-0979 (Winnipeg) or 204-904-8412 (outside Winnipeg).