

RELIEF CARE COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

MANDATE:

To initiate and facilitate the establishment and operation of relief care that will assist families in the Southern Alberta Netherlands Reformed Congregations (NRC) and Reformed Congregation of North America (RCNA) community in need of relief care, “a home away from home”.

RESPONSIBILITY:

- Operate under the authority and bylaws of the NRC Guiding Hands Support Group
- Maintain a list of families that are willing to provide relief care and inform respective consistories of the list and changes to the list.
- Work with parents and relief care families to facilitate the selection of a relief care home.
- Report to children’s services or law enforcement situations that legally require reporting.
- Record all cases and outcomes.

MEMBERSHIP:

- Consistory approved members from the Southern Alberta NRC churches.
- Two members from the Guiding Hands Support Group.
- Membership list can be found on the Guiding Hands website:
www.guidinghandsab.ca

MEETINGS:

- Scheduled as needed to make decisions and placements in a timely manner.
- Agenda will be set prior to each meeting and circulated to the members.
- All information and discussions will be confidential.
- All information and documents will be kept in the safe at the Lethbridge church.

RELIEF FAMILIES:

Several families in the community who have experience with foster/respice care are willing to provide relief care. Many have gone or will go through a third person screening and training process that includes:

- Criminal record check with a vulnerable sector check by police/RCMP.
- Child intervention check by Family Services.
- Interview with all children.
- Psychology-check for both parents.

- Home safety check.
- Courses such as Indigenous, trauma and grief training.
- First Aid.

Families who are willing to provide relief care and have no or limited experience with foster/respice care will be asked to:

- Request a criminal record check with a vulnerable sector check. An application letter will be provided by the Guiding Hands Support Group.
- Provide, for a reference check, two names/phone numbers of family or friends that are not a member of the same household.

Relief care is provided on a voluntary basis. Expenses over and above meals and lodging will be covered by the parents. If parents require financial assistance to provide the necessities for their children, they can contact their respective consistory.

REVIEW:

These Terms of Reference should be reviewed annually.