



The Connection Between Children Aid Societies and Education

Within the Black community, it is no secret that services provided by Children Aid Societies (CAS) have been weaponized and Black children are grossly overrepresented in Children's Aid. The educational system, like other institutions, often operates within frameworks that may not align or identify with the experiences of African Canadian families.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT BLACK FAMILIES AND THE EDUCATION SYSTEM:

- For many Black families, school is the first place where concerns about parenting, or problems with a child's behaviour are raised. Sometimes teachers may call the CAS about a concern with a Black child, instead of engaging directly with the family.
- For many Black families, schools become the initial point of contact with the CAS. Misunderstanding of African Canadian culture by some teachers can contribute to the overreporting of Black students and their parents to the CAS.

HOW TO NAVIGATE CAS INVOLVEMENT:

- Note that CAS workers may visit schools for interviews without parental presence, depending on the allegation.
- Staying calm is crucial. Seeking legal advice or connecting with community organizations supporting Black families is recommended.
- Families have the right to refuse unannounced home visits. However, resistance may escalate the situation.
- Families should document communication and incidents.
- In extreme cases, CAS may consider removing a child.

If facing challenges accessing legal support, reach out to the Black Legal Action Centre (BLAC) for assistance.

Call: 416.597.5831
Email: blacclinic@lao.on.ca

For more information, [click to read the One Vision, One Voice Navigating Child Welfare Guide.](#)