

## Property Guardian services

When children or youth lose their parents and have no one else to protect their interests, or when parents are no longer able to look after their children, the province takes on the duties of guardian.

The PGT becomes property guardian for children and youth in continuing care as well as for those who have no legal guardian or are undergoing adoption.

As property guardian, the PGT is co-guardian with the Ministry of Children and Family Development and Delegated Aboriginal Child and Family Service Agencies for children in continuing care of the province.

As property guardian, where appropriate, the PGT advances legal claims for damages arising from injuries suffered by children and youth in care.

The PGT also pursues financial benefits to which child and youth clients are entitled, such as Canada Pension Plan Children's benefits and Registered Disability Savings Plans.

# Contact the Public Guardian and Trustee

Child and Youth Services  
Public Guardian and Trustee  
700-808 West Hastings Street  
Vancouver, B.C. V6C 3L3

**Phone** 604-775-3480  
**Email** [CYS@trustee.bc.ca](mailto:CYS@trustee.bc.ca)  
**Website** [www.trustee.bc.ca](http://www.trustee.bc.ca)

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Toll free calling is available through Service BC. After dialing the appropriate number for your area below, request to be transferred to the PGT.

**Vancouver** 604-660-2421  
**Victoria** 250-387-6121  
**Elsewhere** 800-663-7867

**PGT hours of operation**  
Monday to Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm

# Child and Youth Services





# What services do we provide?

## Legal services

The PGT protects the legal interests of children and youth by reviewing proposed settlements relating to a variety of legal claims, on their behalf. For example, such claims may arise from medical malpractice, motor vehicle accidents and/or the wrongful death of a parent or guardian.

Where the settlement amount is \$50,000 or less, the PGT can approve or reject the settlement.

Where the amount is over \$50,000, the PGT provides a written recommendation to the court and the court decides whether to approve the final settlement amount.

These reviews ensure that the settlements are reasonable and in the best interests of the child or youth.

To protect the interests that children or youth may have in trusts and estates, the PGT also reviews notices of applications to administer an estate of a deceased person when a child or youth is a beneficiary or may be entitled to a share in the estate or trust.

Where the PGT has reason to believe that the interests of a child or youth in a trust is at risk, the PGT may investigate the circumstances around the trust on behalf of the child or youth.

In some cases, the PGT may agree to act as a litigation guardian and may start a legal action on behalf of the child or youth to pursue compensation for their injuries.

For example, the interests of the child or youth may be in conflict with the interests of their parents or guardians, such as when a child or youth is in a motor vehicle accident where a parent was driving the car.

When this occurs, if there is no other adult willing or able to protect the child's or youth's interests, the PGT may agree to act.

## Trust services

Certain funds received by a child or youth such as the proceeds of a settlement or an award for injuries or a payment from an insurance policy, estate or court order are paid to the PGT to be held in trust for the child or youth.

Upon receiving the money, the PGT places the funds in an interest bearing account in the name of the child or youth.

All investment decisions and disbursement requests are reviewed and made by a PGT Guardianship and Trust Officer (GTO).

The GTO works closely with family members and/or other people when making decisions, including responding to requests to release funds from the trust for special opportunities.

The PGT is required to charge fees as set by the Fee Regulation of the Public Guardian and Trustee Act. These fees are similar to those permitted for private trustees.

Money held in trust is released to the child or youth or their legal representative at age 19, unless the court order or trust document dictates that the funds be held longer.

Legal responsibilities for protecting the interests of minor children in British Columbia are shared by parents, guardians and a number of public institutions and organizations.

In B.C., children are minors until they reach 19 years.

The Public Guardian and Trustee (PGT) protects the legal and financial interests of children and youth under the authority of a range of provincial laws.

The PGT Child and Youth Services division works on behalf of and directly with children and youth as well as with their parents or guardians.