



British Columbia Mental Health Review Board

Effective Date: May 1, 2023

Title: Practice Direction – Children and Youth Hearings

In accordance with the Mental Health Review Board (Board) Practice Direction titled “Children in Hearings” dated January 31, 2020, the Board remains committed to ensuring that children and youth have the opportunity to be heard and consulted in all matters of process and substance affecting them in light of such factors as age, maturity, culture, language, or any individual need.

In accordance with this commitment, the Board will implement a change to its hearing process for new applications for hearings involving all children and youth under 25 years of age, depending on Board capacity.

The Board will employ a Navigator commencing May 2023 who will work to assess the needs of children and youth applicants. The Navigator will be the point person for all communications and coordination of children and youth applicant hearings from the time of filing of the application for hearing to the conclusion of the hearing. The Navigator will have ongoing communication with the applicant and participants regarding the process steps, the Board’s Rules of Practice and Procedure, the incorporation of any children and youth protocols and practices, and the implementation of any reasonable accommodations including cultural, spiritual, emotional, language-related, and technical.

In addition, the facility and the patient or their representative are to attend a pre-hearing conference (PHC) with the Navigator, as necessary, for hearings involving children and youth. The PHC may be by telephone or other method set by the Board and at a time set by the Board. The purpose of the PHC is to address any reasonable accommodation requests by the applicant, outstanding disclosure or witness issues, or any other issues raised by the parties to ensure that the applicant is provided trauma-informed, procedurally fair, and timely access to justice.

Paul Singh

Chair, British Columbia Mental Health Review Board