

**FIRST NATIONS CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES PROGRAM
INFORMATION BULLETIN
FNCFS/SEFPN 2025-005**

Definition of “Ordinarily Resident on Reserve”

May 30, 2025

This information bulletin provides the First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) Program definition of “ordinarily resident on reserve”, **effective June 1, 2025**.

This definition is intended to provide clarity and a common understanding to ensure that the FNCFS Program is delivered in compliance with the [FNCFS Transitional Terms and Conditions](#) which states the program funds services for First Nations children, youth and families **ordinarily resident on reserve or in the Yukon**. Where eligibility for the Program is based on an individual being ordinarily resident on reserve, the following definition will be used:

Ordinarily resident on reserve refers to the residency status of an adult who resides on reserve at least 50% of the calendar year and who does not maintain a primary residence elsewhere, or:

- is temporarily residing off reserve while registered either full-time or part-time in an educational institution or a training program and who would otherwise reside on reserve; or
- is temporarily residing off reserve in order to obtain health or social services for which there are no reasonably comparable services on reserve and who, but for the need to receive said services, would reside on reserve; or
- is temporarily residing off reserve due to a natural disaster.

The residency of a child is derived from the residency of the child’s parent or guardian. The residency of a child who comes into the care of a mandated child welfare agency is derived from the residency of the child’s parent or primary caregiver at the time the child is taken into care.

For the purpose of this definition, a **reserve** includes:

- a reserve, as defined in s. 2 (1) of the Indian Act, R.S.C., 1985, c. I-5;
- lands set aside in Yukon as per Cabinet Directive (Circular No. 27) entitled Procedure for Reserving Land in the Yukon and Northwest Territories (1955);
- lands formerly defined as a reserve or lands set aside which now form part of modern treaty settlement lands; and
- Crown land which is recognized or deemed by Canada as settlement lands of a First Nation.

If you have questions about this bulletin or its implementation, please contact your ISC regional office.