

### **What is the SD&G Akwesasne First Engagement Team (S.A.F.E. Team)?**

The SD&G Akwesasne First Engagement Team (S.A.F.E. Team) actively engage with youth appearing in court to determine if they would benefit from services in Cornwall and SD&G. The S.A.F.E. Team can provide support to youth for mental health, developmental disabilities, use of substances (alcohol, drugs), gambling, gaming, education, employment, housing, and other needs. Based on a youth's needs and their interest in receiving services, the S.A.F.E. Team can suggest organizations in Cornwall and SD&G that might be able to help.

### **How does the S.A.F.E. Team work?**

When a youth comes to Youth Court in Cornwall for their first appearance, the Duty Counsel or clients counsel provide youth the opportunity to meet with a member of the S.A.F.E. Team. If the youth agrees, a S.A.F.E. Team member will assist the youth to complete a consent form and a screening questionnaire. Based on this questionnaire and with the youth's input, the team will recommend services in Cornwall and SD&G that will be helpful for the youth.

The S.A.F.E. Team is voluntary and a youth can refuse to participate at any time. Participating in S.A.F.E. Team is separate from the Court's decision about a youth's case. It is also separate from Extrajudicial Sanctions (EJS) or Youth Mental Health Court Worker (YMHCW) Programs or other court programs that a youth might be eligible for. Participating in S.A.F.E. Team screening does not mean that a youth's case will be automatically diverted. But, with the youth's permission, the Crown Attorney and Duty Counsel will be informed about recommendations provided by the S.A.F.E. Team.

### **After meeting with a member from the S.A.F.E. Team in youth court, then what?**

A youth might be referred to a specific program or organization in Cornwall and SD&G that can help them with their needs. Or, the youth might not need extra help or might not want to receive services. If the youth wants help and is interested in receiving services in the community, the S.A.F.E. Team will make arrangements to follow up with the youth to discuss their options for getting help.

### **Community Contacts:**

**211:** Dial **2-1-1** from any phone for free, confidential, non-emergency help from community and social services. Information and Referral Specialists answer calls 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

**Cornwall Community Hospital: Addiction Services** Community Addiction Services of Cornwall and SD&G provides access to treatment resources for individuals and their families living in the Cornwall and SD&G Region with alcohol, drug and gambling concerns. **Call 613-361-6363** to book a confidential assessment or to learn more about what Addiction Services has to offer.

**Child, Youth and Family Crisis Line.** Service in both official languages. We leave that up to you! If you are feeling overwhelmed as a parent or youth then you can call us for support. **Contact 1-877-377-7775**

### **Kids Help Phone**

Kids Help Phone provides anonymous and confidential telephone and online counselling services in English or French. It is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year for youth aged 20 and under. Call **1-800-668-6868** or visit [www.kidshelpphone.ca](http://www.kidshelpphone.ca)

### **Justice for Children and Youth**

For general information about the Youth Criminal Justice Act and the legal rights of children and youth in Ontario, visit <http://jfcy.org/en/rights/criminal-youth-criminal-justice-act/>

*S.A.F.E. Team is a collaboration between health, youth justice, and social service agencies in the Cornwall and SD&G area. For more information about the S.A.F.E. Team, contact Laurencrest Youth Services Inc. at 613-933-6362 or Youth Probation Services at 613-933-7674.*