

Jordan's
Principle 



JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE

Jordan's Principle is a Child-First Initiative that aims to eliminate service inequities and delays for First Nations children.

Jordan's
Principle 

Indigenous Services Canada

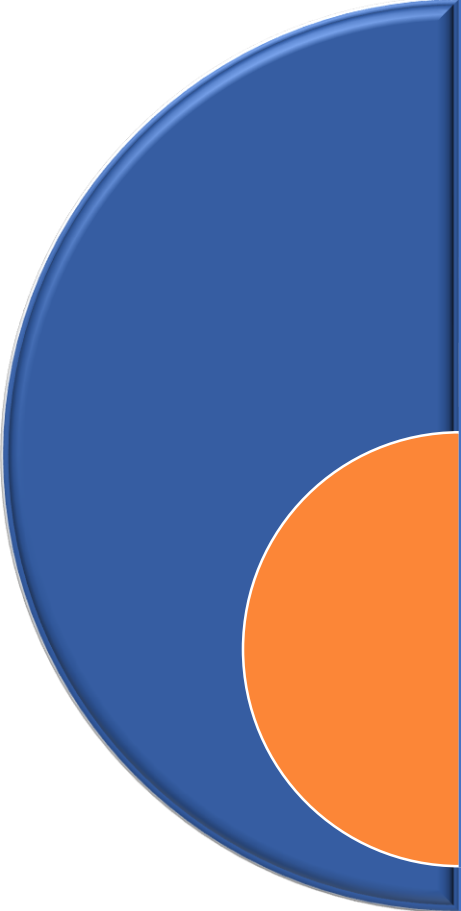
Jordan River Anderson The Messenger

Jordan was born in 1999 with multiple disabilities and stayed in the hospital from birth. When he was 2 years old, doctors said he could move to a special home for his medical needs. However, the federal and provincial governments could not agree on who should pay for his home-based care. Jordan stayed in the hospital until he passed away at the age of 5.

When referring to Jordan's Principle please remember to use Jordan's name rather than shortening it to JP. This legal rule is named in his honor to respect his life and experiences.



The purpose of Jordan's Principle



Jordan's Principle asserts that the government or department of first contact, that first receives a request to pay for a service must pay for the service and resolve jurisdictional disputes and reimbursement thereafter.

Jordan's Principle is a child-first principle meant to prevent First Nations children from being denied essential public services or experiencing delays in receiving them.

Jordan's Principle Eligibility and Types of Request

Eligibility

Jordan's Principle Requests

Requests for services, products and supports under Jordan's Principle can be submitted for review, determination and funding in two ways: either through individual requests or group requests.

A child under the age of majority in their province or territory of residence (0-17 years of age in Alberta) who meets one of the following criteria:

- First Nations children registered or eligible for registration under the Indian Act, on or off reserve;
- First Nations children who have one parent/guardian who is registered or eligible to be registered under the Indian Act;
- Children ordinarily resident on reserve (including those not eligible for status); or,
- Children without Indian Act status or eligibility for status, who are not ordinarily resident on reserve, but who are recognized as a member of their Nation for the purposes of Jordan's Principle

Individual Requests

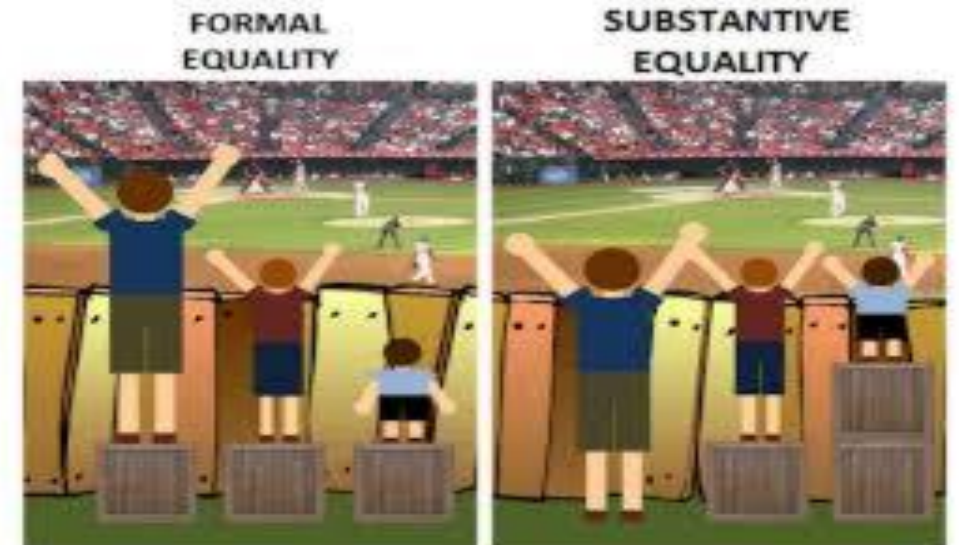
- An individual request may be submitted by a parent or authorized representative for a single child or siblings.
- A First Nation's child above the age of 16 years of age, who meets the eligibility criteria, can apply themselves.

Group Requests

- A group request may be submitted for a group of children seeking services.

Substantive Equality is Assumed in the Decision-Making Process:

Substantive equality is a legal principle that refers to achieving and maintaining true equality in outcomes. It is accomplished through equal access, equal opportunity, and, most importantly, the provision of services and benefits in a manner and to standards that address any unique needs and circumstances, such as cultural, social, economic, and historical disadvantage.



Recent Developments

ISC is applying a Back to Basics approach to the implementation of Jordan's Principle. Developed with the Parties, the Back to Basics approach:

- centres the needs and best interests of the child in decision-making;
- presumes substantive equality to apply;
- is timely and simple to access; and,
- minimizes the administrative burden on families.

2021 CHRT 41 ordered Canada to fund building and capital assets for the delivery of First Nations Child and Family Services and Jordan's Principle programs and prevention services.

Agreements in Principle (AiP)

On January 3, 2022, the Government of Canada announced that Agreements-in-Principle have been reached on a global resolution related to compensation for those harmed by discriminatory underfunding of First Nations child and family services and to achieve long-term reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services program and Jordan's Principle, to ensure that no child faces discrimination again.

Canada continues to work with the Parties towards a final settlement agreement that will include a long-term approach for Jordan's Principle.



URGENT!

Urgent Requests

Urgency could include all cases involving end-of-life/palliative care, mention of suicide, physical safety concerns, no access to basic necessities, risk of child entering the child welfare system, etc.

Non-Urgent Requests

Time Sensitive requests are not urgent, however have a specific time frame that is necessary for a decision to be made in order for a child to access services.

Once ISC has received all information for a request, a decision must be made within:

- **12 hours for:** urgent individual requests
- **48 hours for:** non-urgent individual requests or urgent Community/Group requests
- **7 calendar days for:** non-urgent Community/Group requests

Urgency & Timelines

The scope of Jordan's Principle

Between July 2016 and
February 28, 2023

more than

2.56 Million

products, services and supports
were approved under

**Jordan's
Principle**

**INUIT
CHILD
FIRST
Initiative**



speech
therapy



educational
supports



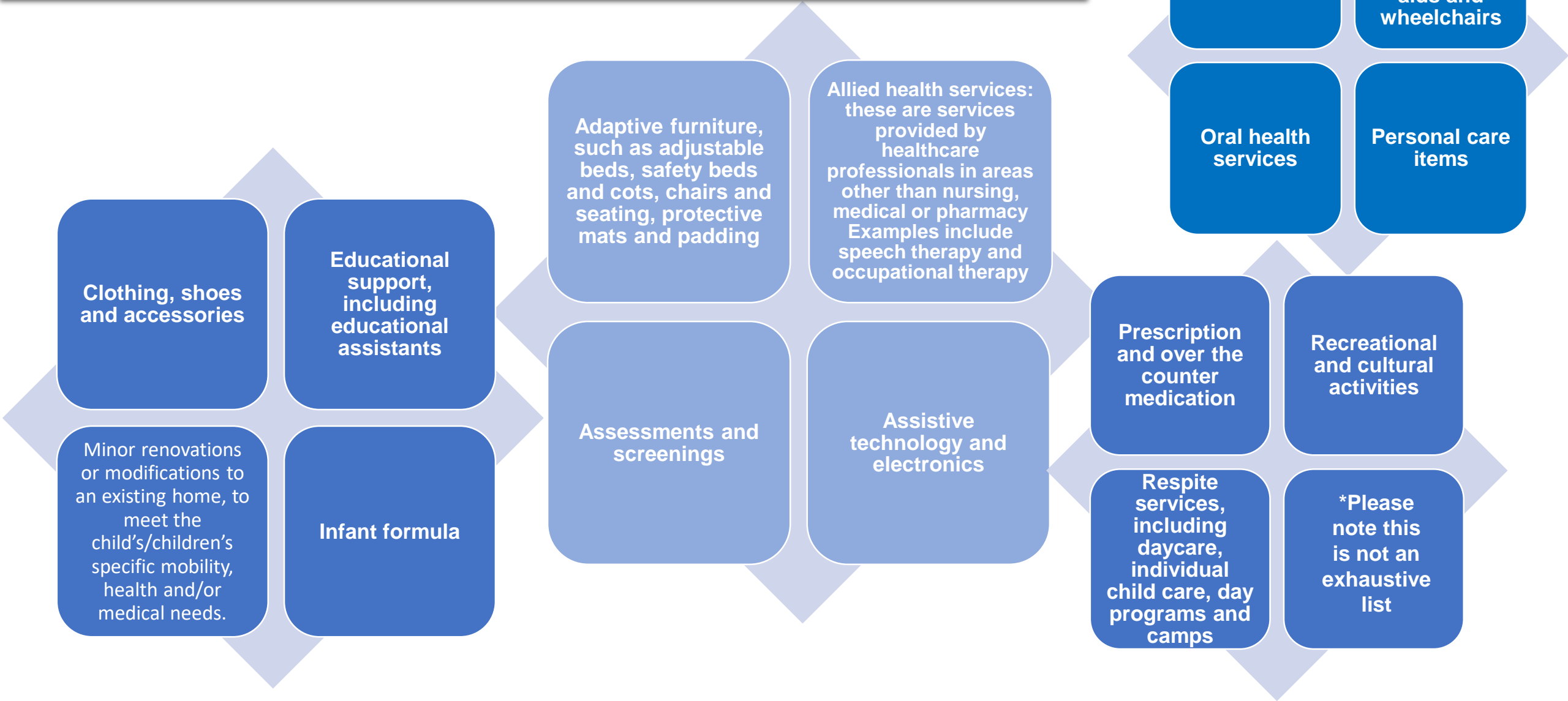
medical
equipment



mental health
services
and more

The scope of Jordan's Principle continues to expand to reflect the CHRT orders through working partnerships with Indigenous communities and organizations. Jordan's Principle staff across the country work diligently every day to support First Nations children and families in accessing a wide variety of products services and supports to meet their needs.

Examples of Products, Services and Supports Requested Through Jordan's Principle



Jordan's Principle Request and supporting documentation

Individual requests to support the needs of a child should include supporting documentation:

Information on the child, including name, date of birth and confirmation of eligibility

Letter of support from a regulated professional in the child's circle of care, speaking within their scope of practice

Parental/guardian consent for ISC to process the request and share information with FNHC for payment support, if applicable

Information on the product, service or support requested, including quantum, if applicable

For **urgent requests**, only a minimal amount of information is needed to adjudicate:

Consent from parent/guardian/minor who is legally able to make decisions about their care

Confirmation of eligibility, if possible

Confirmation from a regulated professional of the need for the product/service/support, if possible

URGENT!

Urgency could include all cases involving end-of-life/palliative care, mention of suicide, physical safety concerns, no access to basic necessities, risk of child entering the child welfare system, etc.

All Requests Require Consent from parent/guardian/minor who is legally able to make decisions about their care



Letters of Support

The document could be, for example, a:

- Health, education or social assessment, evaluation, report or summary
- referral, prescription, official diagnosis with a treatment plan; or a,
- letter of recommendation from an Elder, knowledge keeper or health, social or education professional.

The letter of support should:

- Describe the diagnosis or identified need for the child.
- Directly recommend the specific product, service, or support the child requires
- Provide information on how often and for how long the required product, service, or support will be needed. Specify the number of times per week or month it is needed, as well as the duration in weeks or months, if applicable.

The document should include the registration or professional licensing number of the professional, if applicable.

The professional's area of expertise or scope of practice should be linked to the requested product, service, or support, For instance:

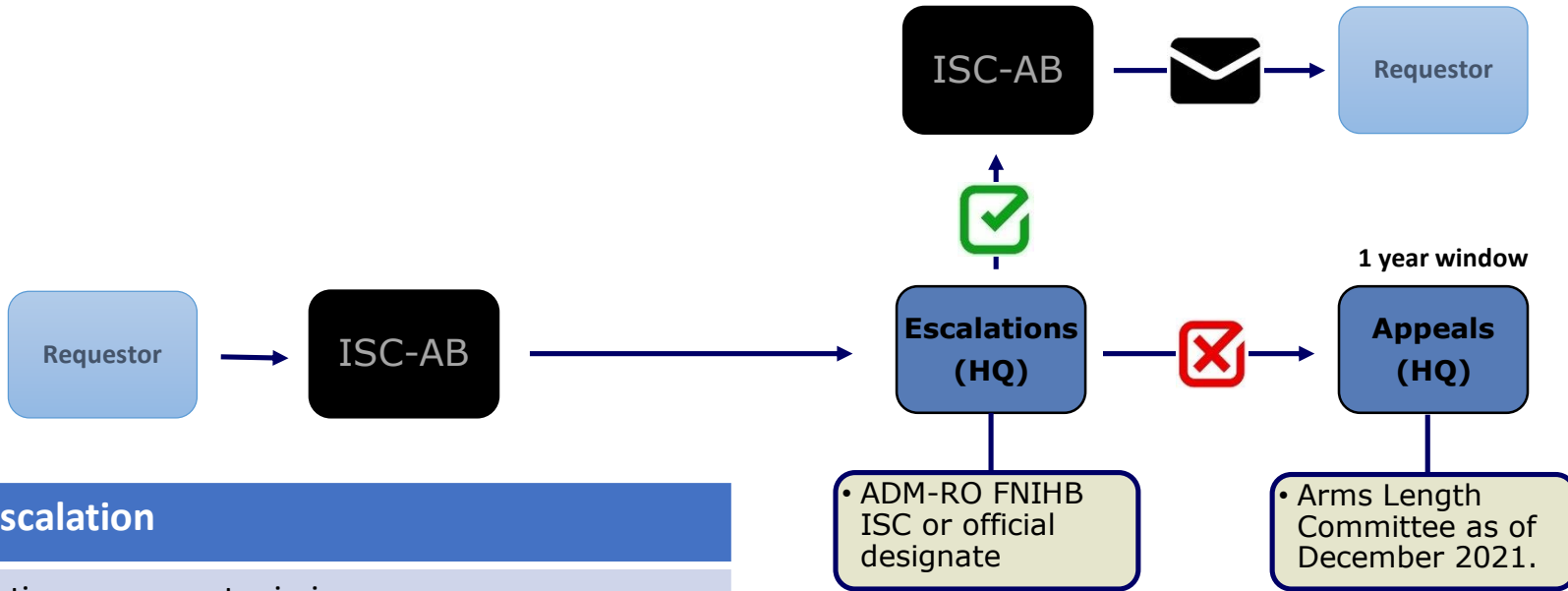
- Health professionals must recommend requests for medical or health supports.
- A child or family social service or support can be recommended by a social worker.
- Educational products, services, or supports can be recommended by a teacher, principal, educational psychologist, occupational therapist, or speech language pathologist.
- Oral health products, services or supports can be recommended by a dentist
- A mental health worker can recommend mental health supports.
- Nutritional products services or supports can be recommended by a dietitian or doctor

The professional who wrote the document must date and sign it.

Note:

- The more specific a letter of support is the more it will effectively demonstrate the child's need for the requested product, service, or support.
- If you are unsure about which professional should make the recommendation for your child, please contact us.

Escalation & Appeals Process



Sample Reasons for Escalation

- Child-specific information or consent missing
- Need supporting documentation from regulated professional within child's circle of care, identifying a specific need within area of expertise
- Child's eligibility unclear
- Outside Regional authority

First Nations Health Consortium & Jordan's Principle Enhanced Service Coordination

- Service Coordinators provide a critical support function to First Nations children and families in accessing supports through Jordan's Principle. They provide hands-on support in the application process, with feedback on what to include in an application, and can apply on a requestors behalf.
- Service Coordinators also have in-depth knowledge of the other services that may be available at the community level and would benefit the child to ensure a continuation of supports and services are available.



**INUIT
CHILD
FIRST**
Initiative

The First Nations Health Consortium (FNHC) is a partnership with 11 First Nations from each Treaty area in Alberta that has been funded to support the implementation of Jordan's Principle in Alberta through enhanced service coordination.

FNHC is the only service coordination organization in Alberta.

First Nations Health Consortium (FNHC) is funded by the Federal Government through Jordan's Principle.

FNHC has a multidisciplinary team with representation from Treaty 6, 7 and 8.

FNHC can be contacted at 1-844-558-8748 or nochild4gotten@abfnhc.com

Indigenous Services Canada |

FNHC & Service Access Resolution Fund (SARF)

Through a pilot project launched in June 2019, FNHC administers ISC-approved payments for Jordan's Principle individual requests.

Funds are paid through the Service Access Resolution Fund (SARF).

SARF ensures the expedited delivery of funding for Jordan's Principle individual requests.

SARF also provides ongoing post-approval support to families accessing products, services and supports through Jordan's Principle.



Submitting a Jordan's Principle Request

To request funding for a child or group of children under Jordan's Principle or the Inuit Child First Initiative contact:

- Alberta Region: jordansprincipleab-principedejordan@sac-isc.gc.ca or 1-833-632-4453
- First Nations Health Consortium at 1-844-558-8748; or nochild4gotten@abfnhc.com
- National Call Centre: 1-855-JP-CHILD (1-855-572-4453), open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week



FIRST NATIONS
HEALTH CONSORTIUM

NEED HELP WITH A REQUEST?

Contact the First Nations Health Consortium (FNHC), an agency in Alberta dedicated to assisting and supporting you in navigating and completing submissions under Jordan's Principle. Please see <https://www.abfnhc.com/> or contact: 1-844-558-8748.