

#02 Jordan's Principle (2018)



INDIGENOUS HEALTH CARE ACTION SERIES

Who Was Jordan Anderson? Jordan River Anderson was a First Nations child from Norway House Cree Nation in Manitoba born with complex medical needs requiring at-home care.

The provincial and federal governments could not agree on who should pay for his at-home care, thus Jordan remained in hospital and passed away there at the age of 5.

His death ignited a movement to uphold human rights for all First Nations children through the creation of the child-first principle called 'Jordan's Principle' in 2007, to ensure access to necessary health services and supports.



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What is Jordan's Principle?



Jordan's Principle provides payment for needed services to First Nations children between 0 - 18 (or 19 years old depending on the province's rules) to prevent them from being denied essential services or experiencing delays in receiving them. Put another way, it ensures that First Nations children get the medical services and supports they need, when they need them. Payments are worked out later.



Jordan's Principle covers all public services such as mental health, special education, dental, physical therapy, medical equipment, physiotherapy, and more for First Nations children. A fund has been established for directly applying for the necessary resources for any First Nations child in Canada.

What Actions Can I Take As A Healthcare Provider

1. Be informed that First Nations children in their care are eligible for products, services and supports - no matter where they live.
2. Educate oneself about Jordan's Principle, including its scope covering a wide array of public services, and the application process.
3. Facilitate immediate healthcare access for First Nations children, with the understanding that financial responsibilities can be resolved subsequently.
4. If you encounter children with unmet needs, explore the option of applying for Jordan's Principle on their behalf. Alternatively, engage in discussions with the parents or guardians of the child, who also have the option to submit the application.
5. Actively engage with First Nations families and communities to learn about local health requirements and resources.
6. Ensure proper documentation and patient reporting is being done, especially in cases where healthcare needs are not being met due to systemic issues.

What Does a Healthcare Provider Need to Apply?

To fill out an application, the following information is required:

- Child's name, date of birth, address and Indian Status Card number (if registered)
- Parent/guardian name and contact information
- Reason for request (i.e., what is the child's unmet need?)
- Description of the requested product and services
- History of the request
- Any supporting documents from educational, social or health professionals (referrals, prescriptions, etc.)

**To assist in the application, please contact your local Service Coordinator
or Canada's Jordan's Principle Call Centre 24 hours of the day at 1-855-JP-CHILD**