



# Birth Alerts BC CLASS ACTION

## Backgrounder

### Overview

A proposed settlement has been reached in the Birth Alerts BC Class Action, a class action about the use of Birth Alerts in British Columbia. The proposed \$66 million settlement must be approved by the Supreme Court of British Columbia before it can take effect.

People who may be class members can now opt out of the class action or file claims for compensation. They can also use this time to learn more about the proposed settlement, consider their options, and access support services and Claims Helpers.

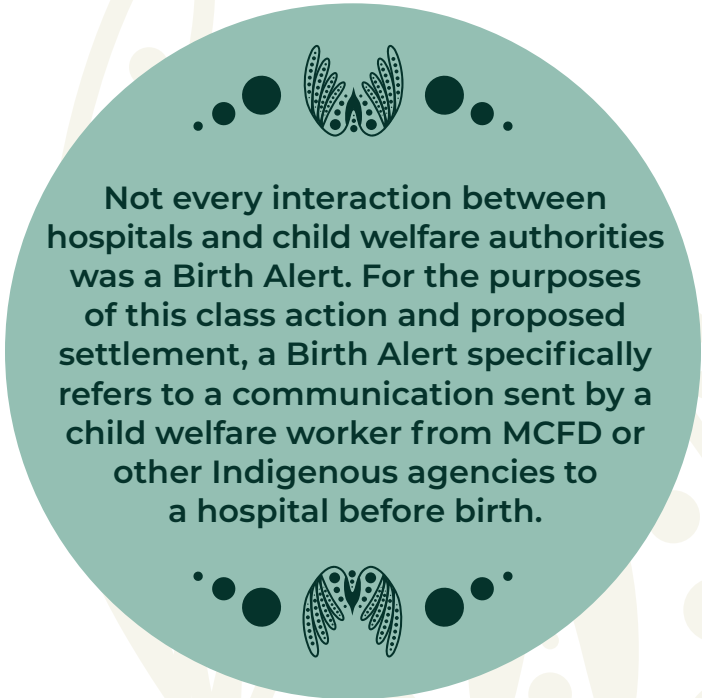
### What were Birth Alerts?

**Birth Alerts were communications sent by child welfare workers from the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD), and in some cases delegated Indigenous agencies, to hospitals before a baby was born.** The communication stated or implied that a person was pregnant and expressed concern that the child might need protection after birth.

Following a Birth Alert, child welfare workers commonly attended the hospital before the parent or baby was discharged.

Birth Alerts often occurred without the pregnant person's knowledge. As a result, many people may not know that a Birth Alert was issued about them.

The practice was used in British Columbia for decades and officially ended in 2019.



Not every interaction between hospitals and child welfare authorities was a Birth Alert. For the purposes of this class action and proposed settlement, a Birth Alert specifically refers to a communication sent by a child welfare worker from MCFD or other Indigenous agencies to a hospital before birth.

## Impacts on Indigenous class members

Birth Alerts disproportionately affected Indigenous women, families, and communities. This disproportionate impact is a significant part of the historical and social context surrounding the practice. For many Indigenous people and communities, Birth Alerts are connected to broader histories of colonial child removal policies, including residential schools, the Sixties Scoop, and ongoing child welfare involvement.

Available records from British Columbia show that Indigenous parents were overrepresented among people who were the subject of Birth Alerts. According to data cited by the Representative for Children and Youth, 58 per cent of parents who were subject to Birth Alerts in British Columbia in 2018 were Indigenous.

If approved, the proposed settlement would provide additional compensation for Indigenous class members.



**The class action must still be approved by the Supreme Court of British Columbia. A Settlement Approval Hearing is scheduled for December 4, 2026, to determine whether the proposed settlement is fair and should be approved.**

## The class action and proposed settlement

The Birth Alerts BC class action was filed in 2021 on behalf of people who were the subject of Birth Alerts in British Columbia.

The proposed settlement was reached following mediation involving the parties and independent mediators Hon. Jody Wilson-Raybould, PC, OBC, KC and Dr. Roshan Danesh, KC.

The Claims Process includes a process for claimants to seek information about whether a Birth Alert was issued about them. If approved by the Court, the proposed settlement will provide compensation to eligible class members.

### The proposed settlement includes:

- If the settlement is approved, compensation for eligible class members
- If the settlement is approved, additional compensation for Indigenous class members
- If the settlement is approved, a collective fund intended to support families and communities affected by the Birth Alerts
- A Claims Process supported by Claims Helpers
- Trauma-informed and culturally safe support services throughout the Claims Process
- A process for requesting and reviewing hospital records connected to Claims
- Notice and outreach programs intended to help reach people who may not know they were subject to a Birth Alert

The proposed settlement also allows Claims to be submitted before final approval so that people can begin the process while the Court approval process is underway. Claims will not be paid unless the Court approves the proposed settlement.

### **What the proposed settlement does not address**

The proposed settlement addresses the Birth Alert itself, the communication sent to a hospital before birth. It does not determine whether later actions taken after birth by child welfare authorities were lawful or unlawful. This distinction is an important part of the proposed settlement and may be difficult for some people because experiences connected to Birth Alerts are often connected to later events.

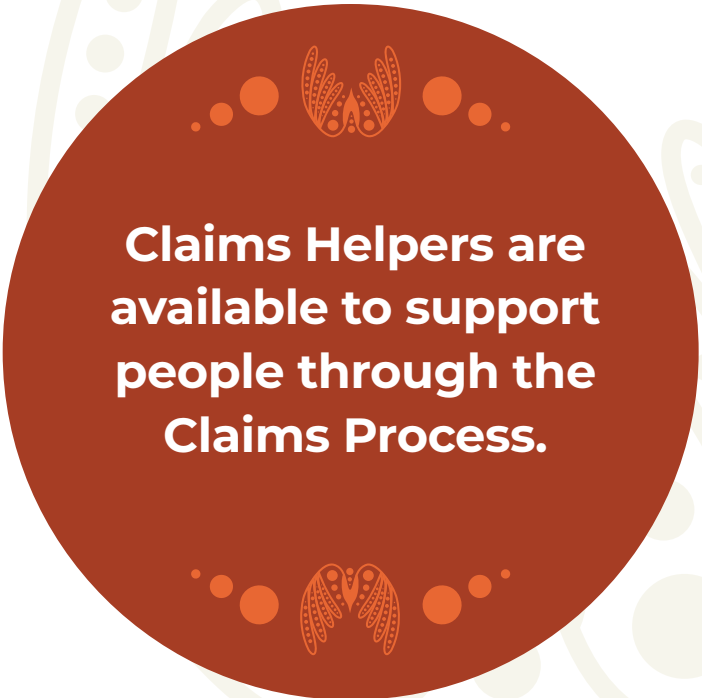
The class action does not address every interaction between hospitals and child welfare authorities. Early involvement of child welfare workers at a hospital does not necessarily mean a Birth Alert occurred.

The proposed settlement is not an admission of wrongdoing or liability by any party. It also does not require people to publicly share personal experiences to participate in the Claims Process.

### **Claims Process and supports available**

Many people may not know that a Birth Alert was issued about them. Some people may receive direct notice because records suggest they may have been the subject of a Birth Alert. Others may learn about the proposed settlement through media, community outreach, or public notice campaigns.

Claims Helpers are not connected to MCFD and can help people understand the process, complete forms, and access information and supports.



**Claims Helpers are available to support people through the Claims Process.**

Support services available include:

- **BC Mental Health & Crisis Response (no area code needed): 310-6789**
- **Hope for Wellness Help Line: 1-855-242-3310 or [www.HopeForWellness.ca](http://www.HopeForWellness.ca)**
- **Local support: call 2-1-1**

Claims information, FAQs, notices, forms, and updates are available at [www.BirthAlertsBC.ca](http://www.BirthAlertsBC.ca).

Claims Helper support is also available through:

- Info Line: **1-833-632-6557**
- Email: **Info-BABC@BirthAlertsBC.ca**

### **Important dates**

**Class Period:**

May 31, 1980, to May 8, 2026

**Date Certified:**

May 8, 2026

**Objection Deadline:**

November 20, 2026

**Opt Out Deadline:**

December 8, 2026

**Settlement Approval Hearing:**

December 4, 2026

## Other Birth Alerts class actions in Canada

This Class Action is specifically for Birth Alerts in British Columbia. There are actions about Birth Alerts in other provinces at various stages in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Ontario and Quebec.

### Manitoba:

[www.cfmlawyers.ca/class-action/birth-alerts-manitoba/](http://www.cfmlawyers.ca/class-action/birth-alerts-manitoba/)

### Saskatchewan:

[www.cfmlawyers.ca/class-action/birth-alerts-saskatchewan/](http://www.cfmlawyers.ca/class-action/birth-alerts-saskatchewan/)

### Ontario:

[www.goldblattpartners.com/experience/class-action-cases/post/gg-v-ontario/](http://www.goldblattpartners.com/experience/class-action-cases/post/gg-v-ontario/)

### Quebec:

[www.belleaulapointe.com/en/class-actions/birth-alerts/](http://www.belleaulapointe.com/en/class-actions/birth-alerts/)

## Where to learn more

More information about the proposed settlement, including Notices, FAQs, Claim Forms, support resources, and updates about the Settlement Approval process, is available at [www.BirthAlertsBC.ca](http://www.BirthAlertsBC.ca).

People who believe they may have been subject to a Birth Alert, including people who are unsure, are encouraged to visit the website or contact a Claims Helper to learn more about their options.

## Media Contact

All media inquiries can be directed to Morgan Atwater at [Media-babc@birthalertsbc.ca](mailto:Media-babc@birthalertsbc.ca).



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