



Birth Alerts British Columbia (BC) Class Action

About the Birth Alerts BC Class Action

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

People who may be class members can 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. These communications stated or implied that a person was pregnant and expressed concern that the child might need protection after birth.

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

Impacts on Indigenous class members

Birth Alerts disproportionately affected Indigenous women, families, and communities. For many Indigenous people, Birth Alerts are connected to broader histories of colonial child removal policies, including residential schools, the Sixties Scoop, and ongoing child welfare involvement.

About the proposed settlement

If approved by the Court, the proposed settlement would provide:

- Compensation for eligible class members
- Additional compensation for eligible Indigenous class members
- A collective fund intended to support families and communities affected by Birth Alerts

- A Claims Process supported by Claims Helpers and trauma-informed, culturally safe supports
- Notice and outreach programs intended to help reach people who may not know they were subject to a Birth Alert

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.

Claims Process and supports available

Claims Helpers can help people understand the Claims Process, complete forms, and access information and supports. Call the Info Line at **1-833-632-6557** or email: **Info-BABC@BirthAlertsBC.ca**.

Wellness supports

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

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





FAQs

Who could have been subject to a Birth Alert?

A Birth Alert was a communication sent by a child welfare worker from MCFD to a hospital before a baby was born. It expressed or implied concern that the child might need protection after birth. Birth Alerts often happened without the pregnant person's knowledge. The practice affected people facing systemic barriers or vulnerability and disproportionately impacted Indigenous women.

Who is included in the class action?

You may be included if a Birth Alert was issued about you in British Columbia during the class period.

The class period begins May 31, 1980, and continues until May 8, 2026.

Who is not included as a class member?

You are not included if, at the time the Birth Alert was issued, you were under 19 years old and in the care or custody of the Province.

What if I do not know whether a Birth Alert was issued about me?

You are not alone. Many people may not know whether a Birth Alert was issued about them.

If you believe a Birth Alert may have been issued about you, you can learn more at www.BirthAlertsBC.ca or contact a Claims Helper through the Info Line at 1-833-632-6557.

How much compensation could I receive?

If the Court approves the proposed settlement, class members who submit an approved Claim will receive at least \$2,000.

Indigenous class members who submit an approved Claim will receive additional compensation. The final amount each person receives will depend on the number of approved Claims.

What are my options?

You have four options:

1. Stay in the proposed settlement and submit a Claim.
2. You can opt out.
3. You can object to the proposed settlement.
4. Do nothing.

Each option has different results. Learn more about your options by visiting www.BirthAlertsBC.ca/your-options

Can I submit a Claim now?

Yes. Claims can be submitted now.

Payments will not be made unless the Court approves the proposed settlement.

For more information about the Birth Alerts BC Class Action, please visit www.BirthAlertsBC.ca.