

January 24, 2024

Dear Brenda:

Thank you for bringing your concerns regarding unregulated child protection workers to my attention. Like you, I share similar concerns about the lack of legislated requirement which would further strengthen oversight of child protection workers.

As you mentioned in your email, the College's mandate is to protect the public by regulating social workers and social service workers in Ontario. One of the ways we fulfill our mandate is through rigorous complaints and discipline processes. You are likely aware that we are governed by the Social Work and Social Service Work Act, 1998. There are no provisions in the Act that allow us to investigate complaints or provide disciplinary measures to individuals who are not registered with the College, including child protection workers.

Some individuals may have a degree in social work or a diploma in social service work, and as long as they refrain from calling themselves a social worker/registered social worker or social service worker/registered social service worker, and avoid misleading others into believing they are a social worker/social service worker, the College has no recourse against their conduct. If, however you are aware of an individual using one of the protected titles illegally, please contact [titleprotection@ocswssw.org](mailto:titleprotection@ocswssw.org) to report it and our staff will follow up with the individual. You can read more information about title protection on our website.

You may already be aware that the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) has been working on proposed regulatory changes seeking to address gaps in the Child, Youth and Family Services Act. The College has supported the government's efforts to strengthen oversight in order to better protect children and youth.

We appreciate you sharing your concerns with us. The College remains committed to seeking changes that would further strengthen oversight and protect our most vulnerable – children and youth – and we will continue to our ongoing dialogue with the government.

Sincerely,  
Denitha Breau, RN, MSN, MBA  
Registrar and CEO