



# Jordan's Principle

## Ensuring First Nations Children Receive the Public Services They Need When They Need Them

### What is Jordan's Principle?

Jordan's Principle is a child first principle named in memory of Jordan River Anderson. Jordan was a First Nations child from Norway House Cree Nation in Manitoba. Born with complex medical needs, Jordan spent more than two years unnecessarily in hospital while the Province of Manitoba and the federal government argued over who should pay for his at home care. Jordan died in the hospital at the age of five years old, never having spent a day in his family home.

Jordan's Principle ensures that First Nations children can access all public services when they need them. Services need to be culturally based and take into full account the historical disadvantage that many First Nations children live with. The government of first contact pays for the service and resolves jurisdictional/payment disputes later.

### Why is Jordan's Principle important?

Payment disputes within and between federal and provincial or territorial governments over services for First Nations children are common. First Nations children are frequently left waiting for services they desperately need, or are denied services that are available to other children. This includes, but is not limited to, services in education, health, early childhood services, recreation, and culture and language. Jordan's Principle calls on the government of first contact to pay for the services without delay and seek reimbursement later so the child is not tragically caught in the middle of government red tape.



**First Nations Child & Family  
Caring Society of Canada**

### What did the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal say about Jordan's Principle?

The Canadian Human Rights Tribunal is a legal institution whose mandate is to adjudicate cases where there has been an alleged breach of the Canadian Human Rights Act. In 2016, the Tribunal found that the Canadian Government is racially discriminating against 165,000 First Nations children and their families for its failure to provide equitable services, including the proper implementation of Jordan's Principle. The Tribunal has issued a series of legally binding orders that Canada has an obligation to fulfill. Highlights of the orders are:

- apply Jordan's Principle to all First Nations children living on and off reserve;
- apply Jordan's Principle based on the needs of the child (not just limited to the normative standard of care);
- ensure that administrative procedures do not delay service provision; and
- respond to most cases within 48 hours.

To report a Jordan's Principle case or find out more contact **1-800-567-9604**.

To learn more about Jordan's Principle visit **[jordansprinciple.ca](http://jordansprinciple.ca)**

For more information  
on the case go to  
**[www.fnwitness.ca](http://www.fnwitness.ca)**

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