

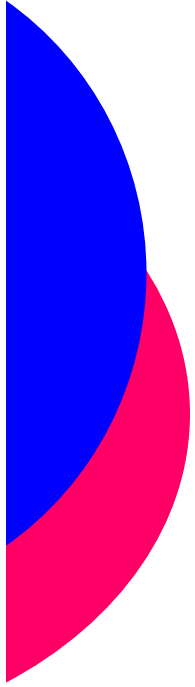


*Roles and Functions of the
Office of The Children's
Advocate*

OVERVIEW OF THE OCA



- The Office of the Children's Advocate (OCA) was established under the Child Care and Protection Act (2004) in 2006 (Section 4 (1) of the CCPA outlines the establishment of the Office of the Children's Advocate).
- Is a Commission of Parliament mandated to protect and enforce the **rights** and **best Interest** of children.



VISION OF THE OCA



“Children in Jamaica enjoy their rights and their best interest is taken into consideration at all times.”

FUNCTIONS OF THE OCA

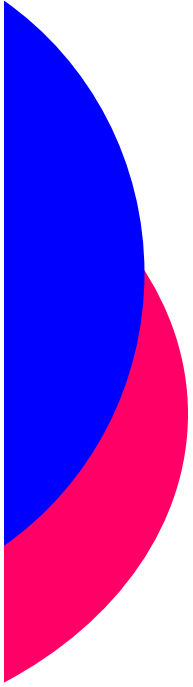


- Provide **legal representation** for children
- **Investigate** complaints made by and on behalf of children against **relevant authorities** (government entities)
- **Review** the **adequacy** and **effectiveness** of **services** provided for children by relevant authorities
- Make **policy recommendations** to Parliament

FUNCTIONS OF THE OCA



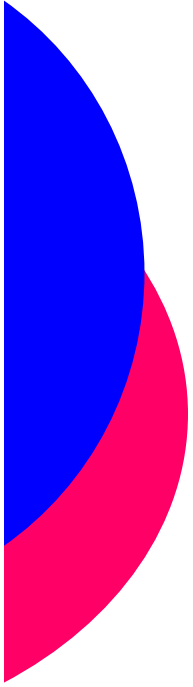
- **Review** the **adequacy** and **effectiveness** of **laws** and **practices** in the best interest of the children
- **Educate** children on their rights and responsibilities
- **Consult** with children and other stakeholders prior to making decisions about issues concerning them



LEGAL FUNCTION



- Provide legal representation for children who are brought before the courts.
- Bring non-criminal Court proceedings or intervene in Court or tribunal proceedings concerning the best interest of

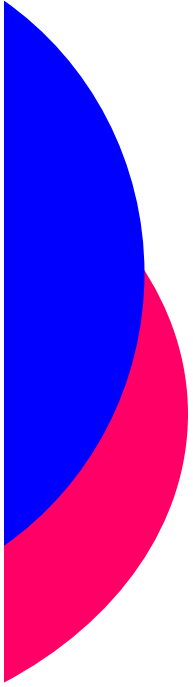


LEGAL FUNCTION



Section 4 (3) of the CCPA

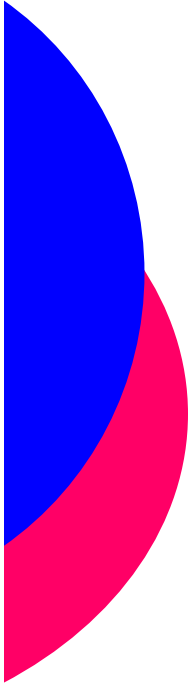
“Where a child is brought before the Court and it appears that the child is in need of legal representation, the Court may refer the case to the Children’s Advocate or arrange for legal aid representation of the child and issue the relevant notice of its determination to the Children’s Advocate”



CONSULTATIVE FUNCTION



- Seek the views of children and their parents and guardians concerning the Children's Advocate's role and functions.
- Consult with the appropriate bodies and persons (experts and stakeholders) on matters concerning a child's right or best interest and issue best practice guidelines after such consultations.



REGULATORY FUNCTION



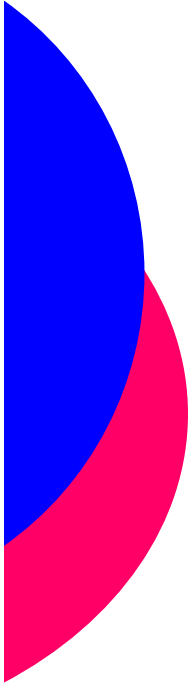
- Review laws and practices relating to child's rights and best interest.
- Review services provided by relevant authorities to ensure that they are adequate and effective.



INVESTIGATIVE FUNCTION



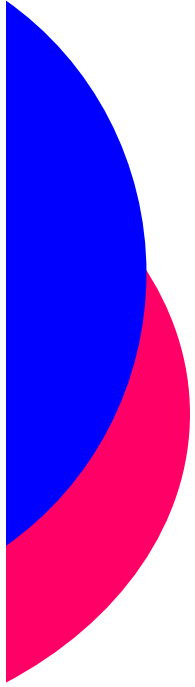
Receive and investigate complaints made by or on behalf of a child whose rights were infringed by the action of a Relevant Authority or whose interests have been adversely affected by such action.



ADMISTRATIVE FUNCTION



- Provide financial or other assistance to children making complaints to a relevant authority about any of its actions which breached the rights and adversely affect the interest of the child.
- Act on behalf of a child in the event that the relevant authority investigates the complaint.



ADMISTRATIVE FUNCTION



- Maintain proper records of complaints received without revealing the personal details of the child concern.
- Make periodic reports to Parliament including special reports about the findings of investigations into children's complaints and resultant recommendations.

EDUCATIONAL & ADVISORY FUNCTION



Educational

- Educate children and adults about the role and functions of the Children's Advocate, child rights and how they can contact the Office.

Advisory

- Give advice and make recommendations to Parliament, ministries and relevant authorities on matters relating to the rights or best interest of children, either at their request or as the advocate considers appropriate.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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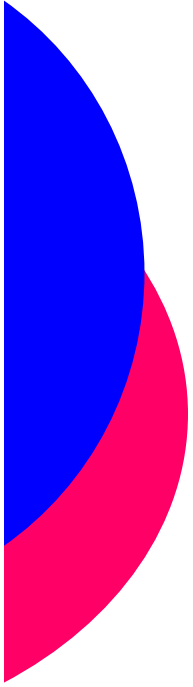
Website: www.oca.gov.jm



Office of The Children's Advocate (Jamaica)



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Office of The Children's Advocate