

Prenatal Outreach Support Team FAQ

What is POST? The Prenatal Outreach Support Team is a partnership between a Calgary Police Service Constable and Alberta Health Services Nurses. The team is implementing a pilot project designed to prevent risks to newborns by identifying high risk women and facilitating their access to appropriate prenatal programs.

What are the risk factors? Risk factors during pregnancy would include substance abuse, prostitution, domestic violence, mental illness, poverty, isolation, homelessness, etc.

POST members will:

- provide first response to referrals for pregnant women at risk who are not accessing prenatal supports and resources;
- engage high risk pregnant women and build rapport as early as possible;
- facilitate access to community programs and resources by providing outreach support to at risk pregnant women who are not accessing prenatal supports.
- provide follow up support through liaison with the community prenatal support agencies;
- provide consultation to the Calgary Police Service and community agencies regarding high risk pregnant women.

POST is committed to working with community agencies to achieve healthy pregnancies for at risk women to ensure healthy newborns and parents.

POST is available for consultation from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday to Friday. Referrals to the Prenatal Support Team can be faxed to **(403)428-5419**, or by email at prenataloutreach@albertahealthservices.ca

All information received is considered confidential to the Prenatal Outreach Support Team.

Team Members are available for consultation:

Cst Derrick Campbell #3280	Calgary Police Service (403)428-5429
Heather Krowchuk R.N.	Alberta Health Services (403)428-5424
Allison Saxby R.N.	Alberta Health Services (403)428-5426

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- **Who can be referred?** Pregnant women not currently accessing prenatal supports with high risk lifestyles including but not limited to: substance abuse, prostitution, domestic violence, mental illness, homelessness, isolation...
- **Who can refer?** Referral sources for the pilot include groups such as Calgary Police Services, Calgary Remand Centre, Alberta Health Services emergency rooms, urgent care facilities and various programs for high risk populations.
- **How to refer?** When referral sources encounter pregnant women they feel are associated with a high risk lifestyle, they can gather information that would assist POST in connecting with the women such as: name, date of birth, relevant address(s), relevant phone number(s), and brief summary of concerns in terms of risk factors. The referral sources send the referral information in one of two ways:

1. Referral by fax at (403) 428-5419
2. Email at prenataloutreach@albertahealthservices.ca

- **What happens next?**

All referrals are considered confidential, when sent to the team.

- i. Once the information is triaged, team members will meet with the pregnant women to build rapport with her, assess the current resources she is accessing, outline the risks to the development of the fetus if she continues to engage in high risk behaviors, and offer support.
- ii. If the woman wishes to engage in prenatal support, consent will be sought to contact the prenatal support agencies participating in the pilot to arrange an intake with the pregnant woman.
- iii. The Prenatal Outreach Support Team would continue to be available for support through the term of her pregnancy with the prenatal support agencies

