



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services



MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 03 May 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Priority: HIGH

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services provides Counselling Services

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services (MSDFS) wishes to remind members of the public that counselling and psychosocial support are available for persons who may be feeling a bit overwhelmed and stressed, during these challenging times, as we are trying to decrease the number of positive COVID-19 cases and prevent the spread of the virus in the country.

The Ministry is cognizant that following the recent lockdown, persons have once again been asked to make sacrifices, which may have an impact on the most vulnerable.

As the Ministry continues to promote healthy and functional families, as the bedrock of our society, several efforts will be made, under the guide of the National Family Services Division, to collaborate and partner with various stakeholders to provide crisis intervention and make referrals where necessary, as family issues may arise due to the current stipulations. The Ministry remains committed to working with appropriate agencies and civil society organisations, to make necessary arrangements to provide the much needed psychosocial support at this time.

As much as possible, persons are encouraged to call or reach out to the Ministry through social media for emergency counselling and psychosocial support, as our trained social workers and counsellors will be ready to assist.

The National Family Services Division and by extension, the MSDFS is classified as essential services and remains committed to providing support to the public during these challenging times. The NFSD is located at 95 -97 Frederick Street, Port of Spain (at the Law Association Bldg. opposite Elections and Boundaries Commission) and at the Ministry's Social Welfare offices in Couva, Chaguanas, Tunapuna, San Juan, Princes Town, Rio Claro, San Fernando, Penal and Point Fortin.

Persons may contact the National Family Services Division by calling: **623 – 2608 ext.'s 6701-6707** or visit our various offices to receive free counselling and support. Contacts for Agencies providing similar support are as follows:

- ChildLine – contact: 800-4321
- Lifeline - 645-2800, life@lifelinett.com

- Children's Authority – 800 – 2014 or 996 - 2014
- Families in Action – contact: 628-6333
- National Domestic Violence Hotline: 800- 7283 (SAVE) Available: 24 hours
- Rape Crisis Society of Trinidad
 - North Office: **627- 7273**
 - **South Office- 657-5355**

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For more information:

Communications Unit

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services

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