

## INFORMATION BULLETIN

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For Immediate Release  
December 9, 2004

Public Guardian and Trustee  
of British Columbia

### GIFTS AND DONATIONS FOR BABY JANE DOE

The media has recently reported on Baby Jane Doe, the baby abandoned at a Vancouver bus stop on November 27, 2004, and the issue of setting up a trust fund to receive public donations for the baby.

The *Family Relations* Act provides that where a children has no guardian, the Director of Child Protection at the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) is guardian of the person and the Public Guardian and Trustee is the guardian of the estate.

As guardian of the person for Baby Jane Doe, MCFD is responsible for the personal care and well-being of this child. She has been placed on an interim basis with a foster family in Vancouver while the search continues for her parents.

As guardian of the estate, the Public Guardian and Trustee (PGT) is responsible for overseeing her legal and financial interests and may receive and hold funds in trust for her.

As was reported in the news, some members of the public wish to make gifts to, or donations to be held in trust for, Baby Jane Doe. Anyone wishing to make a donation of personal items such as clothes may want to make a donation to their local charity, Neighbourhood House or the Christmas Bureau, all of whom deal with children in need and would be glad to receive these donations, particularly at this time of year.

Gifts of money to Baby Jane Doe can be made to:

“Baby Jane Doe in trust”  
Public Guardian and Trustee  
700-808 West Hastings Street  
Vancouver, BC V6C 3L3

All gifts to Baby Jane Doe will be invested in her trust account and used for Baby Jane Doe’s benefit. MCFD will not be requesting funds from Baby Jane Doe’s trust for maintenance. Any funds remaining when Baby Jane Doe reaches the age of majority (19 years of age), will be paid out to Baby Jane Doe.

The media has reported that there are individuals considering setting up private trusts for Baby Jane Doe. The fact that the PGT, as guardian of the estate, is able to receive gifts for this child does not prevent private trusts from being established by private citizens. A private trust is a matter between the person establishing the trust, the financial institution where the funds are held and the prospective donors. Normally, a private trust is established through a trust deed, which sets out the specific purpose, terms and conditions for the trust.

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#### Media inquiries:

Dee Kennedy  
Information and Communications Coordinator  
Public Guardian and Trustee of BC  
(604) 660-4474  
See Backgrounder for more information.