



December 9, 2004

**STATEMENT FROM BC'S DIRECTOR OF CHILD WELFARE REGARDING
'BABY JANE DOE'**

There has been a great outpouring of concern for this child – called Baby Jane Doe -- from people throughout the province. I'd like to take this opportunity to assure British Columbians that this child is safe, she's healthy and she's being well-looked after in a loving foster home.

While I appreciate that people want to send gifts to this child, I want to assure the public that Baby Jane Doe is thriving – she has plenty of clothes and toys and she's doing really well.

I would ask those people who would like to donate to children during this holiday season to call their local charities – there are always children and families out there who could use a helping hand, whether it be food or toys or money.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to clarify roles and responsibilities with respect to Baby Jane Doe, as there seems to have been some confusion around this.

The Public Guardian and Trustee and the Ministry of Children and Family Development's Director of Child Welfare are the joint guardians of this child.

The Public Guardian is responsible for the financial interests of the child – the child's estate – so any monies donated to this child should go directly to the Public Guardian and Trustee's office. The Director of Child Welfare is the guardian of the child herself, with responsibility for her day to day care – for making sure that she is well-cared for in a loving home.

It's important to note that the ministry does not lay claim to any funds held in trust for children in care – so all money will be used for the benefit of the child, in accordance to the wishes of the donor.

For further information about the Public Guardian and Trustee, visit the Web site at <http://www.trustee.bc.ca/>

Media Contact:
Kate Thompson
Ministry of Children and Family Development
250-356-1720

