

SUMMARY: FILE REVIEW

Of the Critical Injury of a Child in the Care of the Ministry

A. INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (the Ministry) conducted the File Review to examine practice in the case of the subject child (the child).

For the purpose of the File Review, Ministry records, policies, standards, guidelines, and legislation were reviewed. The File Review focused on a specific period of Ministry involvement prior to the critical injury of the child.

B. TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Was the assessment of the child's needs, particularly in the area of placement, adequate to address the child's safety and well-being and consistent with relevant legislation, service standards, and policy?
2. Was a plan developed, implemented, and monitored to adequately address the safety and well-being of the child, particularly in relation to placement, and consistent with relevant legislation, service standards, and policy?

C. BACKGROUND SUMMARY

The Ministry had longstanding involvement with the child's family due to parental substance misuse, domestic violence, and neglect. The child had lived outside the family home for several years and was in the care of the Ministry at the time of the critical incident. The child is Aboriginal.

D. FINDINGS

1. The assessment of the child's needs was not adequate to address their safety and wellbeing. The assessment did not adequately consider the caregiver's ability to provide for the child's needs, and concerns regarding the child's placement were not assessed as required by policy.
2. A plan was not developed, implemented or monitored to address the safety and well-being of the child consistent with relevant service standards and policy. Services were provided to the child; a plan was not formulated as required by

policy, and there was no mechanism to address and monitor all aspects of the child's safety and well-being.

E. ACTIONS TAKEN TO DATE

Not applicable.

F. ACTION PLAN

1. Identified child protection concerns are assessed and addressed as required by policy through the completion of a timely child protection investigation initiated after the time period of this review.
2. *Child in Care Standard 11 – Assessments and Planning for a Child in Care* is reviewed with the local service area staff, including time effective methods of planning for a child.

This file review was completed in November 2016. The above Action Plan is due for full implementation in January 2017.