

SUMMARY: FILE REVIEW

Of the Death of a Youth Known to the Ministry

A. INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (the ministry) conducted a File Review (FR) to examine case practice regarding the subject youth (the youth).

For the purposes of the FR, ministry records and BC Coroners Service documents were reviewed. The FR focused on a specific period of ministry involvement prior to the death of the youth.

B. TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Was the assessment of risk to the youth (particularly in relation to a high-risk issue) consistent with relevant legislation, service standards, and policy?
2. Was a service plan developed, implemented and monitored that addressed the youth's needs and risks (particularly in relation to a high-risk issue)?

C. BACKGROUND SUMMARY

The ministry became involved with this youth due to concerns regarding parental capacity, and a criminal issue. The youth came into ministry care, and was receiving services from a ministry program for a specific issue. The youth was not Aboriginal.

D. FINDINGS

1. The assessment of risk to the youth was not consistent with relevant legislation, service standards, and policy. The ministry did not assess the youth's high-risk issue.
2. The ministry did not develop, implement and monitor an appropriate service plan to address the youth's high-risk issue. Service planning was inadequate as it was not informed by thorough assessments or developed according to standards and policy regarding a high-risk issue.

E. ACTIONS TAKEN TO DATE

1. The SDM tool training was provided via live meetings for all Child Protection Team Leader's between November 2015 and June 2016 to cover:

- a. The use of screening assessment tools;
 - b. Safety Assessments;
 - c. Vulnerability Assessments; and,
 - d. Risk Assessments.
2. All staff in the involved office completed training related to the high-risk issue.
 3. An increase in private visits between the social worker and the children who reside in the foster home has been implemented and monitored by management.

F. ACTION PLAN

1. Not required, as the actions taken to date and the involvement from the Issues Management and Practice Support Team addressed the findings.

The review was completed in March 2017.