

SUMMARY: FILE REVIEW Of a Critical Injury of a Child Known to the Ministry

A. INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (the Ministry) conducted the File Review (FR) to examine the case practice with respect to safety planning and collaborative practice with community professionals regarding the subject child (the child) of the FR.

For the purpose of the FR, Ministry electronic and physical records were reviewed. The FR focused upon the initial involvement with the family to the critical injury of the child.

B. TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Was information available to Ministry staff to adequately assess and plan to ensure the child's safety and well being?
2. Did Ministry staff consider all other relevant factors when assessing and planning for the child's safety?

C. BACKGROUND SUMMARY

The Ministry had brief involvement with the child's family. Community professionals were concerned the child was in a high risk situation. The child protection concerns were substantiated while the child was in the parent's care. The child's family participated in Ministry intervention services. The child had been placed in Ministry care for a short duration while the Ministry concluded an investigation.

D. FINDINGS

1. The primary theme arising from the FR focused on the Ministry's ability to perform adequate safety assessments and planning based on information provided by community professionals.

2. Incident assessment and coding was inaccurate, resulting in incomplete and inaccurate early assessment and planning for the child. Additional child protection issues in the home were not explored by the Ministry, which may have impacted the overall assessment of the family dynamics and minimized the concern of risk.

E. ACTIONS TAKEN TO DATE

The community organized a multi-disciplinary forum on the issue of concern. Community stakeholders were in attendance and obstacles to best practice were identified. This resulted in community professionals bringing forward a plan to use a multi-disciplinary approach as a prevention strategy when cases involve child protection concerns.

F. ACTION PLAN

1. The Executive Director of Service reviews with the involved Ministry staff the use of Structured Decision Making tools in assessing child safety.
2. The Executive Director of Service reviews with the involved Ministry staff the use of the Family Development Response code when involved with complex child protection incidents.