

SUMMARY: FILE REVIEW

Of the Critical Injury of a Child in the Care of the Ministry in 2017

A. INTRODUCTION

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

For the purpose of the FR, ministry records were reviewed. The FR focused on a specific period of ministry involvement prior to the critical injury of the child.

B. TERM OF REFERENCE

1. Did the ministry adequately assess, and plan for, the child's safety and well-being, particularly with regard to the concerns for a specific issue?

C. BACKGROUND SUMMARY

The ministry had previous involvement with the child's family due to concerns of specific issue. The ministry was providing protection services due to a substantiated child protection concern that the child was at risk in the family home; services had been provided with some success. The child was in care at the time of the critical injury.

D. FINDINGS

The ministry's assessment and planning for the child's safety was inconsistent. Immediate safety concerns were addressed appropriately; however, subsequent planning did not adhere to the Child Protection Response Policies. The ministry could have taken further steps to mitigate safety concerns for the children by placing them with an approved caregiver. Inconsistencies were evident in completion of Structured Decision Making Tools and the child's Care Plan. The ministry met some elements of a specific guideline, but missed other important elements.

E. ACTIONS TAKEN TO DATE

Not applicable

F. ACTION PLAN

1. Director of Practice meets with the involved staff and review the guidelines about a specific issue.
2. Director of Practice meets with the involved staff and review the importance of developing a Family Plan to ensure that the appropriate services are provided to address the identified concerns.

The review was completed in October 2018. The above action plan was due for full implementation in December 2018.