

SUMMARY: FILE REVIEW

Of the Critical Injury of a Child Known to the Director in 2020

Circumstances of the Critical Injury

The review examined the ministry services provided to an Indigenous child who was critically injured. The child, and their family, were receiving services at the time of the critical injury.

Findings

Initially, the ministry accurately identified concerns for the child's safety and implemented planning and services to address the concerns; however, when circumstances changed, additional steps were not taken to attend to the child's safety. The absence of regular contact and an incomplete assessment of the child's safety and needs contributed to their increased vulnerability. Additionally, when the family informed the ministry they were moving, there was no record of a request to transfer the child welfare involvement to the new community in order to continue to support the child's safety and well-being.

Prior to the review being finalized, the involved staff reviewed policies related to issues identified through the review.

Actions

The involved Service Delivery Area leadership and the Quality Assurance team developed an action plan to review with the involved staff the Family Development Response policy, the relevant guidelines on file transfers, and the practice guidelines related to issues identified through the review.

The review was completed in October 2021. The above action plan is due for full implementation in December 2021.