

SUMMARY: FILE REVIEW

Of the Death of a Child in the Care of the Ministry in 2018

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 and BC Coroners Service documents were reviewed. The FR focused on a specific period of ministry involvement prior to the death of the child.

B. TERM OF REFERENCE

1. Did the ministry collaboratively develop, implement and monitor a care plan for the child, especially in relation to their health and permanence.

C. BACKGROUND SUMMARY

The ministry became involved with the family shortly after the child's birth due to their special needs, and the parent's request to place them for adoption. The parent was a single parent and did not feel they could manage the child's expected long-term health concerns. Voluntary services were provided and the child was placed with a prospective adoptive family who specialized in caring for children with complex medical needs. The child's parent was involved with planning for the child's care and was supported throughout the adoption process. The child was in the temporary care of the ministry at the time of the incident.

D. FINDINGS

The ministry demonstrated excellent collaboration between Care Team members to develop, implement, and monitor a Care Plan for the child, especially in relation to their health and permanence. The guardianship and adoption teams made considerable efforts to expedite the adoption process, demonstrating compassion and sensitivity to the child and their family. While the ministry appropriately consulted with the family and

community professionals with regard to health care decisions, further consultation with the Executive Director of Practice for the Service Delivery Area needed to occur prior to making a final decision on a specific health concern.

E. ACTIONS TAKEN TO DATE

1. The Director of Practice reviewed the practice guidelines for Managing Critical Health Care Decisions with involved ministry staff.

F. ACTION PLAN

Not required.

The review was completed in October 2018.