

## **SUMMARY: FILE REVIEW**

### **Of the Critical Injury of a Youth 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 from the initial critical injury until the youth was no longer in the care of the ministry.

#### **B. TERM OF REFERENCE**

1. Did the ministry meet its guardianship responsibilities for the youth, particularly with regard to ensuring their safety while in care?

#### **C. BACKGROUND SUMMARY**

The ministry had longstanding involvement with the youth and their family due to concerns for parenting capacity, high-risk, and parent's specific behavior. The youth was in the care of the ministry for an extended period at the time of the critical injury. The youth is Indigenous.

#### **D. FINDINGS**

1. The ministry did not fully meet its guardianship responsibilities for the youth, particularly in relation to ensuring the youth's safety while in care. Throughout the period of review the required meetings with the youth did not occur, which affected the youth's ability to develop a relationship with the social worker and provide opportunities to disclose a criminal issue related to the critical injury. Following the report of the criminal issue, the ministry informed the proper authorities and investigated. The ministry did not provide the youth with adequate support regarding the critical injury. The ministry's continual encouragement of the youth to maintain relationships with immediate and extended family appeared to contribute to the disclosure of the criminal issue.

## **E. ACTIONS TAKEN TO DATE**

Not Applicable

## **F. ACTION PLAN**

1. The policy regarding required contact with children and youth in care is reviewed with the team leaders who have responsibility for the Guardianship practice within the Service Delivery Area.
2. A review and discussion occurs with the involved social workers and team leaders regarding their practice/clinical supervision in relation to maintaining regular and frequent contact with children and youth in care; the importance and relevance of that contact is highlighted.
3. Tracking systems for reviewing and updating specific information are assessed and a consistent tracking system is implemented throughout the Service Delivery Area.
4. The necessity for different teams within the Service Delivery Area to collaborate when there is a situation that could affect a child/youth in a specific circumstance is reviewed with all staff in the Service Delivery Area.

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