

SUMMARY: FILE REVIEW

Of the Death of a Child Known to the Ministry

A. INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (the Ministry) conducted a File Review (FR) to examine case practice regarding the subject child (the child) of the FR. The purpose of the FR was to: analyze practice in relation to legislation, policies and standards; promote excellence in assessment and planning; and identify barriers to providing adequate services.

For the purposes of the FR, Ministry records and BC Coroners Service documents were reviewed. The FR focused on the period of Ministry involvement prior to the death of the youth.

B. TERM(S) OF REFERENCE

1. Was the Ministry's assessment of risk to the child consistent with the relevant legislation, policy, and service standards?
2. Was an appropriate service plan developed, implemented, and monitored, to ensure the safety and well-being of the child?

C. BACKGROUND SUMMARY

The Ministry had longstanding involvement with the parent's family during the parent's childhood. There was no previous Ministry involvement with the child. The parent was living with the grandparents when the Ministry became involved; however, the child's parent left the grandparents' home prior to the fatality. The child was in the care of her parents when the fatality occurred. The child was non-Aboriginal.

D. FINDINGS

1. The Ministry's assessment of risk to the child was not consistent with the relevant legislation, policy and service standards. The Ministry did not use the available tools to assess the safety of the child or establish a plan to support the parents prior to the fatality.
2. The Ministry did not develop, implement and monitor an appropriate service plan to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the child. The parent's request for Ministry

services was not addressed. The Ministry inaccurately assumed there were community supports available to the parents.

E. ACTIONS TAKEN TO DATE

No actions taken to date.

F. ACTION PLAN

1. The Director of Practice leads a discussion at the monthly Team Leader meeting about the use of the Practice Directive: Working with Expectant Parents with High Risk Behaviours; particularly, how this applies to youth regardless of whether they need protection.
2. The Director of Practice reviews with the involved Ministry staff the importance of completing thorough assessments on child protection reports involving youth; especially those who are pregnant or are young parents.
3. Both of the above noted Actions will be completed by June 30, 2016.

This case review was completed in May 2016. The above Action Plan is due for full implementation by June 30, 2016.