

SUMMARY: FILE REVIEW

Of the Death of a Youth Known to the Ministry

A. INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (the Ministry) conducted the File Review (FR) to examine the case practice and services provided to the subject youth (the youth) of the FR. The purpose of the FR was to examine case practice in relation to legislation, policy and standards as well as to inform and improve future case practice.

For the purpose of the FR, Delegated Aboriginal Agency (the Agency) records were reviewed. The FR focused on the six months leading up to the death of the youth.

B. TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Were the guardianship services provided under the Child, Family and Community Service Act consistent with applicable legislation, policy and standards?
2. Was the planning associated with the youth's move from the foster placement to a community housing program, consistent with applicable policies, guidelines and standards?
3. Was there a Plan of Care in place when the youth aged out of care and did it meet the medical needs related to the youth's medical diagnosis?

C. BACKGROUND SUMMARY

The Ministry and the Agency had extensive involvement with the youth's immediate family. The concerns were in regards to the parents exposing the youth to high risk situations and inability to provide adequate care. The parents engaged with services during the time the Ministry and the Agency were involved. Community support programs, including health services, were provided, or offered, to the youth throughout the time the youth was in care. The youth was Aboriginal and was not in care at the time death.

D. FINDINGS

1. Apart from some lapses in formal documentation and possibly in communication between the caregiver and the guardianship social worker, the guardianship services provided to the youth were consistent with applicable legislation, policy and standards.

2. Although a formal Plan for Independence was missing from the file documentation, the planning for the youth's independence was consistent with applicable policies, guidelines, and standards. The youth received vocational training, was employed, had secured appropriate housing, was given practical help to move, and had family, community, and professional supports in place.
3. The last Plan of Care did not contain a set of specific goals for the months leading up to the youth's discharge from care. However, medical professionals were involved and treating the youth's medical condition.

E. ACTIONS TAKEN TO DATE

1. Care Plan training was provided to all guardianship social workers at the Agency.
2. The expectation of monthly written updates for children and youth in care was reviewed with all guardianship social workers at the Agency and the youth's former caregiver.
3. The Agency implemented an internal policy to ensure that all children and youth in care receive a full medical exam one year prior to aging out of care.

F. ACTION PLAN

1. The Agency releases a practice directive to all guardianship and resource social workers with regard to the requirement of conducting in-person meetings with the guardianship social worker, resource social worker and foster parent(s) of each child and youth in care for the purpose of establishing the actions required of each to achieve success in all the domains of the Plan of Care.

This case review was completed in April, 2016. The above Action Plan is due for full implementation by September 22, 2016.