



SUMMARY: FILE REVIEW Of the Death of a Youth in the Care of 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).

For the purposes of the FR, Ministry records, and BC Coroners Service documents were reviewed. The focus of the FR was a specific period of Ministry involvement prior to the death of the youth.

B. TERM OF REFERENCE

1. Did the Ministry address the safety needs of the youth as required by legislation, policy, and standards?

C. BACKGROUND SUMMARY

The Ministry had longstanding involvement with the youth's family due to criminal issues, high-risk behaviour, and parenting capacity concerns. The Ministry received a report about parenting capacity and criminal involvement issues. The youth stayed with extended family for a period of time during which the parent requested support and was referred to a community agency. The youth was in care at the time of the incident and was Aboriginal.

D. FINDINGS

1. The Ministry did not fully address the safety needs of the youth as required by legislation, policy and standards prior to being placed in Ministry care. The Ministry correctly assessed the youth as unsafe in the parent's care; however, appropriate options for the youth's care were not identified in a timely manner. The plan developed at a Family Case Planning Conference (FCPC) did not include a safe place for the youth to reside. Subsequently, the youth choose to stay with an extended family member who the Ministry identified as unsafe. When the youth encountered an issue, the Ministry did not provide services to address the issue in a timely manner. The issue continued and the youth did not consistently receive the services required. Once the youth was placed in Ministry

care their behaviour stabilized. None of the identified practice concerns were related to the death of the youth.

E. ACTIONS TAKEN TO DATE

Not applicable.

F. ACTION PLAN

1. The required process to access the support of the Director of Practice and the Child Protection Consultants to support planning regarding the complex needs of high-risk youth is reviewed with the Service Delivery Area Team Leaders and Community Services Managers.

This review was completed in November 2016. The above Action Plan is due for full implementation in December 2016.