

SUMMARY: FILE REVIEW

Of a Critical Injury of a Child Known to the Ministry

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 file review, ministry records were reviewed. The file review focused on the period of ministry involvement prior to the critical injury of the child.

B. TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Was the ministry's assessment of the child's safety and well-being consistent with relevant legislation, service standards, and policy?
2. Was a plan developed, implemented, and monitored to address the safety and well-being of the child in accordance with relevant legislation, service standards, and policy; particularly in the area of CYSN Services?

C. BACKGROUND SUMMARY

The ministry had longstanding involvement with the parent and child due to the child's special needs and parental neglect. Services were provided intermittently; however, were not being accessed at the time of the critical injury. The child was not Aboriginal.

D. FINDINGS

1. The ministry's assessment of the child's safety and well-being was not consistent with relevant legislation, service standards, and policy. The child's safety and well-being was not adequately assessed; the child was not observed, and additional information to inform the assessment was not sought.
2. A plan was not developed, implemented or monitored to address the safety and well-being of the child consistent with relevant service standards and policy. The child was considered safe; however, the assessment of the child's safety was not adequate. As such, a plan was not made.

E. ACTION PLANS

1. *Child Protection Response Policy – Standards for Family Development Response*, in particular Standard 3.2(2) regarding the requirement that a social worker meets with all children in a family when conducting a *Safety Assessment* are reviewed with local service delivery area staff.

2. *Collaborative Practice between Children and Youth with Special Needs and Child Welfare Workers* policy is reviewed with local service delivery area supervisors.

The review was completed in January 2017. The above action plan was due for full implementation in April 2017.