

## **SUMMARY: FILE REVIEW**

### **Of the Death of a Child 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 child (the child).

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

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

1. Was the assessment of the child's safety and well-being (particularly in relation to a specific issue) consistent with relevant legislation and policy?
2. Was an adequate plan developed to address any risk identified for the child's safety and well-being?

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

There was sporadic ministry involvement over several years with the child's family due to concerns of a criminal issue and parenting ability. The parent worked with the ministry for an extended period of time to address the identified concerns. The child was not Aboriginal, and was not in care at the time of death.

#### **D. FINDINGS**

1. The assessment of the child's safety and well-being was not consistent with relevant legislation, service standards, and policy. The ministry utilized some, but not all, of the assessment tools required by policy to ensure the safety of the child. Some assessments were not properly completed and not all the steps of the child protection response were observed.
2. There was no documented plan to address the child's safety and well-being. Risks were not correctly identified and an appropriate service plan was not developed, implemented or monitored to ensure the safety and well-being of the child. Service planning was not informed by thorough assessments or developed

according to standards and policy relating to specific issues. None of the identified practice concerns were related to the death of the child.

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

1. None applicable to the findings.

#### **F. ACTION PLAN**

1. The Community Service Team reviews applicable policies regarding the requirement to conduct a detailed record review for every screened-in child protection report.
2. The Community Service Team reviews standards for a child protection response, in particular: the requirement that a social worker meets with all children in a family when conducting an assessment as well as the requirement to visit the family's home before the completion of the child protection response.

**This review was completed in January 2017. The above Action Plan is due for full implementation in March 2017.**