

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 the File Review (FR) to examine the case practice and services provided to the subject child (the child) of the FR

For the purposes of the FR, ministry records were reviewed. The focus of the FR was the period of ministry involvement prior to the death of the child.

B. TERMS OF REFERENCE

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

C. BACKGROUND SUMMARY

The ministry had several contacts with the child's family, over several years, due to concerns of parent/teen conflict and high-risk behaviors of siblings in the home. The parents had previously engaged in community resources to address the concerns. The child was not in the care of the ministry at the time of death.

D. FINDINGS

1. The assessment of the child's safety and well-being was not consistent with relevant legislation and policy. The child welfare report was not responded to in a timely manner. The Family Development Response was not completed in accordance with policy; appropriate interviews, collaterals, and collaboration (with both ministry and community resources) were not completed to ensure the child was receiving appropriate services to address their safety and well-being.
2. No plan was developed, implemented, or monitored to address the child's safety and well-being. A Safety Assessment was completed but did not capture the concern for the child's unmet mental health needs; had the concerns been

identified they could have informed a plan that addressed the child's mental health needs.

E. ACTIONS TAKEN TO DATE

Not applicable.

F. ACTION PLAN

1. The Executive Director of Service, the Director of Practice, and the Director of Operations review, and agree upon, a consistent Family Development Response (Policy 3.2) approach to provide service to families within the specified timelines.
2. The Director of Practice develops and reviews a 'practice aid' with the Local Service Area staff to: assist in the assessment of behaviours that indicate suicide risk; and, provide prompts for the appropriate actions.

The review was completed in May 2017. The above action plan is due for full implementation in July 2017.