

SUMMARY: FILE REVIEW

Of the Critical Injury of a Child in the Care of the Director

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 FR, case records were reviewed. The FR focused on a specific period of the director's involvement prior to the critical injury of the child.

B. TERM OF REFERENCE

1. Was the director's assessment and planning adequate to ensure the safety and well-being of the child?

C. BACKGROUND SUMMARY

The director had longstanding involvement with the family due to concerns of parental mental health, substance use, and domestic violence. Support services were provided to the family following the birth of the child, and the director continued to be involved when the critical injury occurred. The child was Aboriginal and was in the parent's care at the time of the incident.

D. FINDINGS

1. The director's assessment and planning was not adequate to address the safety and well-being of the child. Safety Plans and Structured Decision Making Tools were not updated during the ongoing protection services practice cycle. Factors related to a high-risk issue were not properly assessed or considered in service planning. Information, including new reports obtained by the director specific to the child, was not responded to according to policy. Information regarding a specific issue was not reviewed with the parent during the period they experienced multiple changes of residence.

E. ACTIONS TAKEN TO DATE

1. The Director of Practice reviewed a specific practice directive with the team leaders in the Service Delivery Area; the team leaders were directed to review this information with their teams.

F. ACTION PLAN

1. The involved staff complete training about a specific issue.
2. The involved staff receive a review on:
 - a. how the Structured Decision Making Tools (assessments and re-assessments) are used to inform decision-making in screening new reports and during the practice cycle; and,
 - b. the importance of conducting home visits to gather key information.

The review was completed in November 2017. The above action plan is due for full implementation in March 2018.