



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

Ref #: 232280
Date: June 2018

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 case practice regarding the subject child (the child).

For the purpose of the FR, ministry records and BC Coroners Service documents were reviewed. The FR focused on a specific period of ministry involvement prior to the death of the child.

B. TERM OF REFERENCE

1. Did the ministry meet guardianship responsibilities for the child according to policy, standards, and legislation; particularly with regard to appropriate training, education and support being provided to caregivers?

C. BACKGROUND SUMMARY

The ministry had previous involvement with the child's family due to concerns of parenting capacity. The ministry was providing protection services due to a substantiated child protection concern that the child was at risk in the family home; services had been provided with limited success. The child was Indigenous, and was in ministry care at the time of death.

D. FINDINGS

1. The ministry did not meet its responsibility to preserve the child's Indigenous identity, and did not collaborate with the Indigenous community in planning for the child. The child's care agreement did not identify a plan of care, or how the ministry would support the child's connection to its family, community and culture. The caregivers were provided with the appropriate training, education and support required by policy to meet the child's needs.

E. ACTIONS TAKEN TO DATE

1. Not applicable.

F. ACTION PLAN

1. The Director of Operations, with the support of the Director of Practice, reviews with the involved staff the importance of: 1) developing and implementing plans of care for use with care agreements; and, 2) ensuring a child's Indigenous community is notified, and involved in the planning, when an agreement is utilized.

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