

SUMMARY: FILE REVIEW

Of the Death of a Youth Known to the Ministry in 2017

A. INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (the ministry) conducted the File Review (FR) to examine case practice regarding the subject youth (the youth).

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 youth.

B. TERM OF REFERENCE

1. Did the ministry adequately assess, and plan, to ensure the youth's safety; particularly in light of a high-risk issue?

C. BACKGROUND SUMMARY

The ministry had longstanding involvement with the youth's family due to concerns of neglect. The ministry provided protection services due to a substantiated child protection concern that the youth was at risk in the family home; services were provided with limited success. The youth was not in care at the time of death.

D. FINDINGS

1. There were significant gaps in the ministry's assessment and planning of the youth's safety. Structured Decision Making Tools were either not completed or completed inadequately. Delays in communication between ministry offices resulted in the family service case not being transferred, and the family not receiving adequate services to address the child protection concerns. There was evidence of collaboration between the ministry and service providers with regards to the youth's high-risk behaviours; however, the youth did not respond to the interventions that were offered and continued to engage in the behaviours. The ministry did not complete Reportable Circumstance Reports as required when following up with the youth's high-risk behaviours.

E. ACTIONS TAKEN TO DATE

Not applicable

F. ACTION PLAN

1. Director of Practice reviews the Case Transfers & Joint Case Management practice directive with the involved staff; particularly with regard to the “Case Transfer – Key Activities” and “Dispute Resolution” processes.
2. Director of Operations meets with the involved staff to discuss the case review, and identify service goals for improving engagement and planning with high-risk youth in the local service area.

The review was completed in July 2018. The above action plan was due for full implementation in August 2018.