

SUMMARY: FILE REVIEW

Of a Critical Injury of a Child Known to the Ministry in 2017

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. TERM OF REFERENCE

1. Was the child's safety and well-being appropriately assessed and monitored by the ministry?

C. BACKGROUND SUMMARY

The ministry had previous involvement with the family due to concerns between the parents. The ministry provided services to the family and had ongoing involvement with the mother and the child. The child was in the care of their parent at the time of the incident.

D. FINDINGS

1. There were occasions when the ministry appropriately assessed the child's safety; however, the actions and interventions taken were often insufficient to ensure the child's well-being. The ongoing issues and how they affected the risk to the child were not assessed or addressed.

E. ACTIONS TAKEN TO DATE

1. A complex case consultation occurred with the involved staff. A timeline was developed highlighting the ministry's involvement with the family; staff were able to learn from reviewing the case practice; and the importance of following the applicable guidelines was reviewed.

F. ACTION PLAN

1. All involved staff attend a one day training on a specific topic which highlights the importance of using the applicable guidelines and SDM tools when dealing with complex family issues.
2. The involved staff receive specific training on Safety Assessments and Safety Plans with regard to short-term involvement (i.e. overnight, weekends, etc.), and record what follow-up is required.
3. Discussion occurs with the involved staff regarding the the limits of financial discretion available to them to support parents in creatively achieving the goals specified in safety plans.

The review was completed in September 2018. The above action plan is due for full implementation in December 2018.