

SUMMARY: FILE REVIEW

Of a Critical Injury of a Child Known to the Ministry in 2018

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 legislation, policy and standards were reviewed. The FR focused on a specific period of ministry involvement prior to the injury of the child.

B. TERM OF REFERENCE

1. Was the ministry's assessment and planning with the child's family adequate to ensure their safety and well-being?

C. BACKGROUND SUMMARY

The Ministry had been involved with the child's family intermittently over several years due to concerns of high-risk behaviours, and to provide support. At the time of the critical injury, 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 some success. The child is Indigenous, and was not in the care of the ministry.

D. FINDINGS

The ministry did not adequately assess or plan for the child's safety and well-being. The ministry did not connect with the family prior to the child's birth, as per a specific guideline. An assessment of the family's strengths and needs was not completed, and as a result, the ministry did not create a family plan. Multiple child protection reports were received and substantiated by the ministry during the period under review; however, increasingly intrusive measures were not implemented to ensure the child's safety. The ministry engaged in collaborative practice through a Family Case Planning Conference; however, the planning that emerged from that meeting was not sufficient to ensure the child's safety.

E. ACTIONS TAKEN TO DATE

1. The ministry restructured the involved team.

F. ACTION PLAN

1. The Director of Practice is emphasizing, with the involved team, the importance of clinical supervision and consultation during case decision-making and completion of Structured Decision Making tools.
2. The involved ministry staff is attending the training regarding a specific issue.

The review was completed in November 2018. The above action plan is due for full implementation in January 2019.