

## **SUMMARY: FILE REVIEW**

### **Of the Death of a Child in the Care of the Ministry in 2018**

#### **A. INTRODUCTION**

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

For the purpose of the FR, ministry records were reviewed. The FR focussed on the period of ministry involvement prior to the death of the child. The child was Indigenous.

#### **B. TERM(S) OF REFERENCE**

1. Was a care plan developed, implemented and monitored to meet the child's needs, particularly in relation to her medical needs?

#### **C. BACKGROUND SUMMARY**

The ministry's first involvement with the mother occurred on the day the child was born. The child was born with a congenital condition associated with incomplete brain development. The mother had not informed her family, or the child's father, that she was pregnant. The mother experienced substance misuse issues, resulting in the child being exposed to drugs and alcohol in utero, and without prenatal care. The child had complex care needs as a result of having multiple health and developmental issues. The mother chose not to parent the child, and the father withdrew from planning with the ministry for the child. When the child was six months old, a Continuing Care Order was granted, and the child was placed in a specialized foster home with caregivers who received specific medical training to care for the child.

#### **D. FINDINGS**

A thorough care plan was developed, implemented, and monitored to meet the child's complex medical needs. The child was in ministry care for three years, and had a thorough plan that focused on ensuring all aspects of their medical needs were met, and documented that the child was followed by a care team who worked collaboratively

to care for them, and to ensure their last days were experienced with as little pain as possible given their compromised condition and complex medical needs.

**E. ACTIONS TAKEN TO DATE**

Not applicable.

**F. ACTION PLAN**

Not required.

**The review was completed in October 2018.**