

SUMMARY: FILE REVIEW

Of the Death of a Youth in the Care of the Director in 2018

Circumstances of the Fatality

The review examined the case files of an Indigenous youth who died while in the care of the director. The director was providing services to the youth and family while the youth transitioned to living independently.

Findings

The youth was involved with the ministry since birth as the parents struggled with health issues and subsequent neglect of the youth. The youth was born with health concerns. The youth came into the continuing custody of the director as a child and resided with a sibling. While in care, the youth accessed support to meet their individualized needs and maintain a connection with their family. The youth accessed services to address health concerns.

As an older teenager, the youth abruptly left the resource to engage in a marriage-like relationship. Ministry assessment tools were not used to guide the transition to living independently. The relationship ended and a safety plan was implemented along with services to support the youth, which included family involvement. An integrated approach was utilized in collaboration with the youth and the involved care team; this addressed the youth's safety, strengthened relationships with family, and informed decision-making.

Prior to the case review being finalized, the ministry revised the Children and Youth in Care Policies: Policy 5.10: *Preparing Youth to Live Successfully in the Community/ Youth in Care in a Marriage-Like Relationship* on October 1, 2018. The policy revision clarified assessment processes to include *Standards for Youth Support Services and Youth Agreements*.

Actions

The involved Service Delivery Area leadership and the Quality Assurance team developed an action plan to review with the involved staff the applicable policy regarding the assessment and planning required to prepare youth to live safely in the community.

The review was completed in August 2019. The above action plan was due for full implementation in October 2019.