

SUMMARY: FILE REVIEW

Of the Death of a Child in the Care of the Ministry

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 of the FR. The purpose of the FR was to: examine case practice in relation to legislation, policy, and standards; as well as inform and improve future case practice.

For the purpose of the FR, Delegated Aboriginal Agency (the Agency) records and BC Coroners Service documents were reviewed. The FR focused on the period of the Agency's involvement prior to the death of the child.

B. TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Were the respite and guardianship services provided consistent with applicable legislation, policy and standards?
2. Were the child's foster parents assessed, approved, trained and monitored according to applicable policy and standards?
3. Was the assessment of risk to the child's safety and well-being consistent with relevant policy and legislation?
4. Were appropriate service plans developed, implemented and monitored to address the safety needs of the child?

C. BACKGROUND SUMMARY

The Ministry had longstanding involvement with the child's extended family. The Agency had extensive involvement with the child's immediate family. The concerns were in regards to the parents' high risk behaviours and inability to function in their parental roles. The primary parent engaged in some services to address the concerns but the services did not adequately address the child protection concerns and the child came into care. The child was Aboriginal and was in care at the time of death.

D. FINDINGS

The following findings summarize non-compliance with applicable standards; however, non-compliance did not appear to have a causal relationship with the death of the child.

1. The respite and guardianship services provided were not consistent with applicable legislation, policy and standards. There was a lack of information sharing with the foster parents regarding the child and the standards in regards to guardianship responsibilities were not followed.
2. The child's foster parents were appropriately assessed and approved. The foster parents were not trained or monitored according to applicable policy and standards.
3. The child's safety and well-being were not adequately assessed. There was no Family and Child Strength and Needs Assessment completed. There were concerns reported by community professionals that were not followed up or assessed appropriately by the Agency. There was no information on the files indicating that Collaborative Planning and Decision Making (CPDM) processes were considered or offered to the family.
4. There were no service plans in place when the child was in the care of the parents or when in the care of the foster parents.

E. ACTIONS TAKEN TO DATE

1. A particular practice issue was reviewed with social workers managing child service files and follow-up took place to ensure this was not an issue in regards to any other children in the care of the Agency.
2. The Agency developed a package of documents to ensure information sharing with foster parents and caregivers when children are placed in their care.
3. The Agency completed a training session on Structured Decision Making and the Child Protection Response Model.
4. A community partner completed a training event for the Agency's foster parents and caregivers on a particular practice issue.
5. The Agency advertised for a newly developed position to provide leadership in ensuring delegated operations are delivered consistently with policy and contractual obligations.
6. The Agency added a review of a particular practice issue to the annual review form used with all caregivers.

7. A particular practice issue was reviewed with the child safety team.

F. ACTION PLAN

1. The Agency will release a practice directive to all resource staff in relation to the applicable standards related to the training and monitoring of foster parents. The Agency will utilize a tracking system to monitor the training offered to and completed by caregivers.
2. The Agency will release a practice directive to all social work staff in relation to the guardianship standards that were not adhered to in this case.
3. The Agency will develop and implement a tracking system to monitor the adherence to guardianship standards noted in action item 2.
4. The Agency will meet with local community partners to review their collaborative practices and information sharing regarding mutual clients and vulnerable children and youth. The Agency will develop a memo of understanding regarding how they will work together with community partners.

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The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. This includes recording the date, amount, and purpose of each transaction. It also emphasizes the need to reconcile the accounts regularly to ensure that the records are up-to-date and accurate.

The second part of the document provides a detailed explanation of the accounting cycle. It outlines the ten steps involved in the process, from identifying the accounting entity to preparing financial statements. Each step is described in detail, including the specific actions that must be taken.

The third part of the document discusses the various types of accounts used in accounting. It explains the difference between assets, liabilities, and equity accounts, and provides examples of each. It also discusses the importance of understanding the normal balances for each type of account.

The final part of the document provides a summary of the key concepts discussed in the document. It emphasizes the importance of accuracy and attention to detail in accounting, and provides some final thoughts on the subject.