

SUMMARY: FILE REVIEW Of the Death of a Youth Known to the Ministry

A. INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (the Ministry) conducted the File Review (FR) to examine case practice regarding the subject youth (the youth). 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, the Ministry's records, the Delegated Aboriginal Agency's (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 youth.

B. TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Were the guardianship services provided under the Child, Family and Community Service Act consistent with applicable legislation, policy and standards?
2. Was there a culturally appropriate Plan of Care in place and did it take into account the youth's history of self-harming and the youth's medical condition?

C. BACKGROUND SUMMARY

The youth was Aboriginal and in the care of the Agency at the time of death. Guardianship services were being provided by the Agency and many attempts were made to connect the youth with medical follow up for a possible medical condition and support services to address high risk behaviours. Despite these attempts, which included several referrals to community support services and medical testing, the youth declined to engage.

D. FINDINGS

1. The guardianship services provided to the youth were mostly compliant with applicable legislation, policy and standards. The youth received ongoing attention to social development, education, cultural, physical and placement needs. Appropriate interventions and follow up services to the youth were provided and/or offered in a timely manner. However, some underlying and longer term issues related to the youth's emotional health and medical well-being were not addressed due to the youth's unwillingness to engage in support services and medical treatment.
2. The overall planning for the youth was comprehensive, culturally appropriate and consistent with standards. The Plan of Care, file recordings and notes indicate that planning was current and active.

E. ACTION PLAN

An action plan was not developed as clinical social work practice did not play a role in the youth's death.