

November 26, 2019

Darlene Bouwsema
Deputy Minister of Children's Services
12th Floor, Sterling Place
9940 – 106 Street
Edmonton AB T5K 2N2

Dear Darlene Bouwsema:

Subject: SR
Response to Recommendations

Please find enclosed the Honourable Judge H.M. Van Harten's report to the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General regarding the public fatality inquiry into the death of SR. Judge Van Harten's report will be publicly released on December 17, 2019.

The following recommendation may impact Alberta Children's Services:

- Whenever a child's casework file is transferred from one caseworker to another, the transfer meeting should be noted or, preferably, be recorded. The new caseworker will then be aware of the file history and able to provide appropriate services to a client.

This recommendation mirrors the first made by Judge McLellan in the T.C. Inquiry. The issue there involved the transfer of a file to a "courtesy" caseworker in another jurisdiction. She emphasized the need to immediately make a child's history available to a new caseworker. My recommendation aims to make sure that this happens in any file transfer whether within or outside of CFS jurisdiction.

I ask that you please advise the following:

1. Whether Children's Services accepts, accepts in principle, does not accept, or has a different response to the recommendation;
2. A brief explanation of why that decision was made; and
3. If Children's Services intends to accept the recommendation, or to implement different measures, what steps will be taken in that regard.

A response to this enquiry is not mandatory. However, be advised that this letter and any response received will be publicly released and posted on the Open Government Portal:

<https://open.alberta.ca/opendata/responses-to-public-fatality-inquiry-recommendations>.

If a response has not been received by April 17, 2020, that information will also be made publicly available.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Yours truly,

Original signed

Jennifer Fuchinsky
Fatality Inquiry Coordinator

Enclosure