

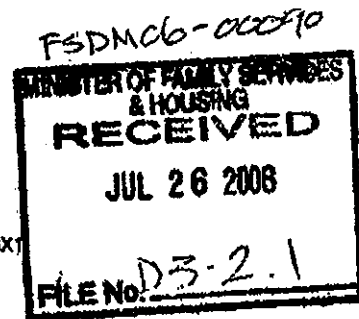
VIA COURIER

Children's Advocate



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July 26, 2006

Mr. Jay Rodgers
Acting Director
Child Protection Branch
Room 201 – 114 Garry Street
Winnipeg, MB R3C 4V4

Dear Jay:

Re: Outstanding Child Protection Matters

Further to the External Child Welfare Review -- Interim Report meeting with Minister Melnick on July 4, 2006, I am writing with the recommendation that the following matters which have emerged during the course of our review to date be given immediate attention to ensure that potential risk to children be addressed.

1. That clear procedures be followed within each agency to ensure that birth alerts or family service alerts are efficiently sent from one agency to another. It is recommended these alerts be copied to the Director of the agency to ensure follow-up, and that the service agency receiving these alerts verify, through an immediate phone call, receipt of such notices, with written confirmation to follow.
2. That in accordance with the Standards regarding the transfer of service from one agency to another, the receiving agency provide written confirmation to the sending agency that the receiving agency is accepting the transfer, and that only upon receipt of this confirmation should the transferring agency cease service. (Sec. 1.1.6 Manitoba Program Standards Manual).

While we recognize that the majority of agencies know and understand this process, we have come across situations where this was not the case and obvious service gaps existed. We trust this matter will be discussed with the four Authorities for follow-up.

Thank you for your attention.

Respectfully,

Billie Schibler
Children's Advocate
Chairperson, Child Death Review Team

Jim Newton
Chairperson
Child Death Review Team

cc. Minister Christine Melnick