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CASE HISTORY

The services provided by Winnipeg Child and Family Services have been investigated by the Special Investigator of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in accordance with Section 10 of The Fatality Inquiries Act. The investigation indicates that Winnipeg Child and Family Services (the "Agency") acted appropriately and fulfilled its mandate.

In an effort to produce a more concise report, the family history has been condensed. All Agency files provided were thoroughly reviewed. A more detailed history is contained in [REDACTED]'s file in the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

- 1. History** Cree Nation Child and Family Caring Agency as well as Island Lake First Nation Family Services have been involved with this family. Currently, Winnipeg Child and Family Services has an open protection file with respect to the father. It is the service provided by Winnipeg Child and Family Services which is reviewed in this report.

[REDACTED]'s parents, Ms. Samantha Kematch and Mr. Steve Sinclair, were both well known to child welfare agencies as both were Permanent Wards of child welfare agencies. Ms. Kematch was a Permanent Ward of Cree Nation Child and Family Caring Agency and Mr. Sinclair had been a Permanent Ward of Winnipeg Child and Family Services. Both had been in independent living situations.

Ms. Kematch gave birth to her first child, [REDACTED] on July 23, 1998 at St. Boniface Hospital. Staff at the hospital were concerned as Ms. Kematch had concealed her pregnancy and consequently received no pre-natal care. She stated that she had only found out a month prior to going into labour that she was pregnant. Hospital Staff noted that the boyfriend who accompanied Ms. Kematch was appropriate and his mother was very supportive. Ms. Kematch herself presented as "immature" and was described as "emotionally flat."

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On July 23, 1999 Winnipeg Child and Family Services apprehended [REDACTED] on behalf of Cree Nation Child and Family Caring Agency as Ms. Kematch was a Permanent Ward of their Agency, and in an independent living situation with McDonald Youth Services.

Court particulars from Cree Nation Child and Family Caring Agency stated "after delivery of her baby, Samantha was short with hospital staff and appeared to be emotionally flat when discussing future plans of her newborn. Samantha gave no indication that she was ready to parent this child. Due to Samantha's behaviour and attitude towards her newborn, Cree Nation Child and Family Caring Agency felt it is in the child's best interest to be placed in care for a period of six months. Since the apprehension, Samantha has indicated she would like to parent her child and has agreed to attend a facility for young mothers. Samantha will continue her weekly supervised visits. She will attend a facility for young mother at Waywayseecappo First Nation for a period of six months once an opening is provided. [REDACTED] will remain in foster home until Samantha is admitted to the facility for young mothers."

On July 25, 1998 [REDACTED] was placed in a foster home with Cree Nation Child and Family Caring Agency.

On September 14, 1998 [REDACTED] was placed with his mother at Oskki-lkwe, a facility for young mothers at Waywayseecappo. After eleven weeks at the facility, both Ms. Kematch and [REDACTED] were discharged from Oskki-lkwe because of safety concerns for [REDACTED]. It is not clear from the file information provided for review what the safety concerns were.

[REDACTED] was replaced in the foster home where he had been originally after being apprehended. Ms. Kematch was returned to the Independent Living Program under McDonald Youth Services until she reached the age of majority.

A social history completed on [REDACTED] by Cree Nation Child and Family Caring Agency staff stated [REDACTED] is a very active twenty month old little boy. He has dark brown eyes, and has a light to medium complexion. He is very active and playful and he is quite attached to his foster brother. There are no distinguishing physical marks on his body, generally in good health. [REDACTED] is very outgoing and is very attached to the foster

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home. He needs very close supervision as he tends to get into everything. He is quite content with foster placement, and very demanding, of caregiver."

██████████'s father, was from the community of Wasagamack. ██████████ was eventually replaced from a foster home licensed with Cree Nation Child and Family Caring Agency to a foster home licensed by Island Lake First Nation Family Services. ██████████ remains a Permanent Ward of Island Lake First Nation Family Services and has not had any contact with his mother since 1998.

It was not clear from the file information provided for review if ██████████ has any contact with his son.

On April 23, 2000 Phoenix Victoria Hope Sinclair was born at the Women's Pavilion in the Health Sciences Centre. Hospital staff called Winnipeg Child and Family Services as Ms. Kematch had not received any pre-natal care throughout her pregnancy. In discussing matters further, it was discovered that ██████████ had been removed from Ms. Kematch's care.

Mr. Steve Sinclair had not parented previously but a child in care summary review from Winnipeg Child and Family Services, dated April 15, 1998 stated "...very hostile with authority figures and oppositional in behaviour; had a drinking problem but was not motivated to address his problem and this was impeding his ability to function in a school environment...was physically, sexually and emotionally abused as a child; seemed to have difficulty with women in authority. **Steven remains to be a highly disturbed individual who should not be left in charge of dependent children. He has numerous unresolved abuse issues.**" (emphasis by Special Investigator)

When asked why ██████████ had been removed, Agency case notes reflect that Ms. Kematch had advised workers "Samantha thought that it was because they thought she may hurt the baby, as her mother did her. In further questioning the couple, it was discovered that they had not made any purchases for the baby whatsoever and Samantha indicated not being emotionally ready to parent. N/Duty workers attended the hospital on this date to meet with the parents, and both indicated that they were not prepared to care for this baby, either financially or emotionally...they both indicated that