



WINNIPEG CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES
SERVICES À L'ENFANT ET À LA FAMILLE DE WINNIPEG

July 16, 2001

Ms. Darlene MacDonald
Program Manager
3692 Roblin Blvd
Winnipeg, MB
R3R 0E1
Phone: 944-4492

Dear Darlene:

RE: Notification of Death of Child Not in Care

BD: [REDACTED]
DOB: April 29/01
DOD: July 15, 2001

OTHER CHILDREN IN THE HOME: Phoenix Sinclair DOB: April 23, 2000 -- with father [REDACTED] DOB: July 23, 1998 -- he is ward of Cree Nation Child & Family ([REDACTED] is this child's bio-father)

PARENTS: Samantha Kematch Steve Sinclair aka Nelson Sinclair
September 9, 1981 May 15, 1980

ADDRESS of Steve Sinclair: 740B Magnus Avenue

PHONE: no

WHEREABOUTS of Samantha Kematch: Unknown at present

SOCIAL WORKER: Dolores Chief-Abigails 944-4117 @ 290 Jarvis

SUPERVISOR: Lorna L. Hanson 944-4074 @ 290 Jarvis

WINNIPEG POLICE SERVICES: Const. Wouda and Hodges assigned case, 986-6868

OTHERS INVOLVED IN CASE: Genni Sinclair, sister to Steve, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] partner to Genni
MaMawi Involved

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Jean Atermeyer, President J. Lance Barber, Chief Executive Officer

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INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEATH OF CHILD ██████████

██████████ from Children's Emergency called to advise that baby ██████████ was brought to hospital dead on arrival at approximately 9:40 a.m. July 15, 2001.

The father Steve reported that ██████████ was running a fever and that he checked on her at around 7:00 a.m. Sunday morning and she okay. He then checked on her again at 9:45 a.m. that same morning and found that she was not breathing. He called 911 and the child was transported to Children's where she was dead on arrival.

According to ██████████'s temperature at time of death was 40 degrees celsius and the playpen where the child was found was 28.5 degrees. The home appeared to be very hot. A bottle of Tylenol was found on the floor beside the playpen but it is not known if ██████████ had been given any before her death.

AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

April 24/00 - Hospital contacted the agency to state that Samantha had given birth to Phoenix. Concerned as Samantha had kept the pregnancy secret, received no pre-natal and that her first child ██████████ was in care with Cree Nation.

May 5/00 - 3month TD consented to by the parents on Phoenix. The following plan was put into place:

- psychiatric assessment on Samantha, initially met with Dr. Gary Altman.
- Attend a parenting program, did at Andrews Street Family Center
- Wpg Boys and Girls Club involved, job training

July 30/00- One month VPA signed, and a family support worker became involved. The plan is to return Phoenix, September 5/00.

September 5/00 Phoenix returned to her parents care. As the family's gains and personal improvements were seen to be fairly new, a service agreement was signed.

Service agreement agreed upon was as follows:

- Samantha will see Dr. Altman and follow any recommendations
- Work cooperatively with Agency
- Both to attend parenting classes
- Further exploration of substance abuse and family violence
- Work cooperatively with PHN, to get further education

November 14/00 - Debra's Chief-Abigosis assigned file, worker's role was to monitor home and to follow up on the above plan.

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It has always been difficult for agency staff to find the family at home. The service contract ended and the family felt they no longer required support services.

Once again, Samantha hid her pregnancy. The Agency was informed by the hospital of [redacted]'s birth on April 29/01. This was our first knowledge of the pregnancy. [redacted] from the women's hospital called. She stated that parents doing fine, Dad taking an active role, mom attentive, baby fine. Agency did assessment and [redacted] went home with her parents.

Family did not want Agency supports, they utilized familial supports. Agency monitored family, and once again it was difficult to find them at home as they are often on the go or at MaMawi.

July 3/01, [redacted] contacted Afterhours, she is concerned that Samantha is not providing appropriate care to her children & that she had in fact, abandoned her children and that Steve has custody of them. [redacted] concerned, as Samantha had attended home with WCP, and got [redacted] Phoenix was with [redacted] Now Samantha wants Steve to come get [redacted] as Samantha is waiting for her GST cheque and she has plans.

As caseworker away, co-worker Cory Donald went out to follow up on After Hours report. He found the home to be in good shape, and the children appeared well looked after. Ms. Chief-Abigosis followed up on July 6/01.

On July 6/01, Delores met with Steve at his home. [redacted] was at home but Phoenix was at friends. Home was clean, [redacted] looked fine, and she was sleeping in her playpen in the living room. She then woke up, Steve prepared and fed her formula. She was alert, the interaction between, father and daughter was extremely positive. Steve informed the worker, that him and Sam were separated for the past 3 weeks, as she is with her old boyfriend. Steve stated that he was presently charged with assault against Samantha. According to Steve, Genil witnessed this alleged assault, and both her & Steve state that it was a verbal argument only. On July 3/01 Steve formally charged Samantha with uttering threats, and he got a restraining order.

Steve is claiming that he no longer plans to live, or co-parent with Samantha. He had seen a lawyer and was seeking sole custody of children. Steve was offered supports, but once again he felt he had adequate family supports but would call if need be. He also informed the worker that he had completed a parenting course at Andrews St. Center, that Dr. Lipnowski sees Phoenix, and [redacted] is seen at the clinic at 601 Alkens, and he calls Emvoy if need be.

The worker and Steve safety planned for when or if he would want to go out. The worker stated that she would "pop" by on occasion to ensure all was okay.

July 10/01, worker stopped by, but no one was home so she left a note was left for Steve to call her.

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This is our involvement to date.

CONCERNS OF ABUSE: There have never been any concerns regarding the parents harming the children.

ANTICIPATED ACTION OF AGENCY:

- to continue supporting Steve in regards to his parenting of his daughter Phoenix
- to assist Ms. Samantha Kematch in coping with the loss of her daughter.
- to continue monitoring family situation
- to help Samantha stabilize, as since her break-up from Steve she has been staying with various people and has had limited contact with her children.

POLICE INVOLVEMENT: To date we have no further information and the investigation is ongoing. We do not know at this point in time if any charges will be laid. An autopsy is to be completed today.

AGENCY ASSESSMENT:

It is our assessment that Steve has been parenting to the best of his abilities. That he and Samantha are presently separated and that Steve has been the primary caregiver to Phoenix and [REDACTED]

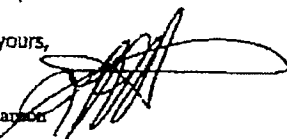
Our file was open as these are young parents, with limited experience, that both have child welfare histories. There have been concerns of the children receiving inappropriate care, but it was felt that this was more about education than actual purposeful neglect. Recently, the concerns have been more about the instability of the relationship and the fact that Steve is parenting on his own. It is unclear, whether any domestic violence has or has not occurred. Steve is stating that he did not assault Samantha. We have been unable to speak with Samantha regarding the alleged assault as she has been transient.

The worker states that Steve was providing appropriate care for his children. That he was and continues to receive support from his family. We will continue to support Steve and Samantha. At present it appears that Steve will continue to be the primary care giver. At present Samantha may have some personal issues to deal with before she can actively participate in her child's day to day life.

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In closing, I hope this case synopsis answers all your questions, should you require further information please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely yours,


Lorna L. Hanson
Supervisor
944 - 4074

cc: Glenda Edwards
Delores Chief-Abigosis



WINNIPEG CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES
SERVICES À L'ENFANT ET À LA FAMILLE DE WINNIPEG

CRU INTAKE & AHU FORM

TO: Delores Chief-Abiogosis – Jarvis Unit
cc. Darlene McDonald - Westley
cc. Abuse Coordinator - Portage Avenue
cc. Lorna Hansen – Supervisor - Jarvis Unit

JUL 16 2001

FROM: Shannon Skogstad

DATE: July 15/01

RE: Sinclair, Steve aka Nelson Sinclair (May 15/80)
and Samantha Kematch
740 B Magnus
no phone, but sister Genni Sinclair ([REDACTED]) has phone
[REDACTED]

FILE #: S007676

<u>CHILD(REN)</u>	<u>D.O.B.</u>	<u>PLACEMENT</u>
Phoenix Sinclair	April 23/00	with dad
[REDACTED]	April 29/01	Deceased July 15/01

SOURCE OF REFERRAL: [REDACTED] Children's Emergency [REDACTED]

TIME OF REFERRAL: 11:59

WPS INCIDENT #: 141385 Street Supervisor: Steve Bowen
Also: Constables Wouda or Hodges 986-6868

SIGNIFICANT OTHERS:
Genni Sinclair and [REDACTED] aka [REDACTED] (June 30/69) 756
Magnus – phone: [REDACTED]

PRESENTING PROBLEM/ INTERVENTION:

The SOR called to inform this agency that [REDACTED] born April 29/01, was brought to the hospital, DOA at around 9:50 am today. This worker began asking specific questions in relation to the death of the baby and the SOR gave this writer WPS - Street Supervisor, Steve Bowen to speak to.

Steve informed this writer that according to Steve Sinclair, father of the deceased child, [REDACTED] had a cold and was running a fever. He had checked on her at 7am this morning and she was ok. He then stated that he checked on her again around 9:45 and she was not breathing. He called 911 and was transported immediately to the hospital. Apparently [REDACTED] was DOA.

Apparently Steve Sinclair's partner and mother of the children, Samantha Kematch, are separated. According to Steve, Samantha abandoned him and the children a month or so ago.

The SOR stated that at this point there is no suspicion, however, the child abuse unit is currently at the home, which apparently is very hot. The SOR is concerned that Steve may need some support in the home and feels that it might be a good idea if we went to the home and spoke with him once he is finished at the hospital, which will be in about an hour or so. The hospital is going to be sending the SCAN to the Child Protection Unit at the hospital for follow up. This writer notes that Phoenix is currently with Genni, Steve's sister, who lives a few doors away from him. Genni will be a support for him. Genni has a closed file, # S001715, closed Oct 2000, with this agency. She has 3 children, age 8, age 3 and age 1 that are living with her. She is 30 years of age.

2:10 Call from Blair Vogan - Wpg Police, Child Abuse Unit

Blair called to give an update on the investigation thus far. Apparently [REDACTED]'s temperature at the time of death was 40degrees Celsius. The temperature in the playpen where the child was found was 28.5 degrees. There were stuffed animals and a blanket in the playpen and the child was cradled within. Steve, aka Nelson Sinclair stated that he had put the child to sleep last night and because the home was hot, he had a fan blowing on the child who was running a slight temperature. Blair stated that the police had found some children's Tylenol drops on the floor beside the playpen, however, it is unknown at this time whether or not [REDACTED] had any of the

medicine. An autopsy will be performed on [REDACTED] (probably tomorrow) to determine the exact cause of her death.

Apparently [REDACTED] was suffering from a severe diaper rash, which was scabby at the time of death. There were/are five kittens running around the home and a litter box could not be located by the attending constables. Blair Vogan is going to be interviewing Steve this afternoon. According to Blair, Steve is currently dealing with domestic abuse charges laid on June 30/01 by ex partner Samantha Kematch, and she has charges laid against her by Steve on July 5/01. Steve has a past conviction of assaulting a police officer in July of 99. He also has a conviction for impaired driving and a charge was "stayed" in September of 2000 for possession of goods obtained by crime.

According to Blair Vogan, Steve's sister, Genni Sinclair, is living common law with a fellow whose name is [REDACTED] aka [REDACTED]. He has had numerous past charges and convictions for assault (24-year-old woman) and narcotics. These charges were laid in the in the mid 90's. Blair gave this information as Phoenix is currently staying with Genni and [REDACTED]. This writer notes that past file recordings indicate that Phoenix was in care of the agency from April 24/00 to Oct 18/00. Blair stated that the officers did not check on the condition of Phoenix, as they were busy with [REDACTED] and Steve.

Blair has been unable to locate Samantha Kematch, however, will be sending officers to last known addresses until she is located.

Shannon Skogstad: AHU

Todd Perreault: Supervisor