

Family Services
and Housing

Child Protection

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CANADA

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October 12, 2006

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Dennis H. Schellenberg
Chief Executive Officer
Child and Family Services General Authority
301 - 180 King Street
Winnipeg MB R3B 3G8

Dear Mr. Schellenberg:

Re: Phoenix Sinclair (DOB: April 23, 2000; DOD: March 23, 2006)

We have received a report from the Chief Medical Examiner (CME) with respect to the death of the above-named. We are including a copy of this confidential report for your information. Given the sensitive nature of the report, we ask that you not make copies of the report nor share its contents without the written permission of the Executive Director of the Child Protection Branch. However, a copy of the CME's report may be shared with staff of the Winnipeg, Rural and Northern Child and Family Services (Winnipeg regional office) (WCFS) who are directly involved with the matter for purposes of reviewing the recommendations in the CME's report.

The CME has reviewed the services provided to this child's family. As a result of the investigation, the CME has made six recommendations, three of which involve the General Authority and WCFS. They are as follows:

Recommendation 2: The CME recommends that the General Authority ensure that the program standards for investigation of allegations of mistreatment of children are followed by agencies under its jurisdiction, specifically, the requirement to ensure that the children involved are safe be fulfilled by ensuring that a child about whom a report of suspected abuse or neglect is made is seen by the investigating worker(s).

Recommendation 5: The CME recommends that the General Authority in conjunction with WCFS ensure that full names are obtained for persons associated with protection cases upon (WCFS) becoming aware of the involvement of a new individual in a case. The CME further recommends that criminal risk assessments of new family members or associates be requested in cases involving families with a history of child protection concerns.

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Recommendation 6: The CME recommends that the Child Protection Branch and the General Authority, in conjunction with WCFS, review the March 5, 2005 intake to determine what can be done to prevent similar incidents in the future and to ascertain whether this was a unique response to reports of alleged maltreatment of children or related to systemic issues such as a shortage of resources.

Please provide a written report of the Agency's response and follow-up activities that is related to the above recommendations to Ms. Penny Smith, Authority Relations, by December 12, 2006.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation with this matter. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Smith at 945-5782.

Sincerely,

[Faint signature]

Linda Burnside
Director
Authority Relations

SS/ep
Enclosure

cc: Ms. Darlene MacDonald, A/Executive Director, WCFS (CME report attached)
Honourable Gord Mackintosh, Minister of Family Services and Housing
Dr. T. Balachandra, Chief Medical Examiner
Ms. Penny Smith, Authority Relations

bcc: Minister (log number FSCFE06-00136)
Milton Sussman
Peter Dubiński
Jay Rodgers