

Ministry of Children and Family Development

Background to Provincial Audit Summary Rating Sheet For Child in Care Case Practice Audits Completed Between January 1, 2006 – June 30, 2006

Between January 1 and June 30, 2006, 249 individual child service files in various offices across the province were audited to the Children in Care Service Standards. These audits were conducted by regional auditors in accordance with standardized methodologies, procedures and tools.

Recommendations were developed to address any practice issues identified in the audits. Recommendations are tracked and monitored for implementation by the Regional and Provincial Directors of Child Welfare.

During the time period covered by this provincial audit summary, the Ministry continued to support families to keep children at home safely; expanded planning options with families to provide increased opportunities for joint decision-making and increased involvement in care plans by family and community members; increased the use of non-court processes such as family conferencing, alternate dispute resolution processes and mediation to resolve child-protection issues; helped children in care to develop and maintain permanent family and other life-long relationships; and continued a greater use of out-of-care options.

The audit results highlighted areas for improvement, including assessments and planning for a child in care.

Assessments and Planning for a Child in Care

The standards require that every child who comes into care has a plan of care that is holistic, current, relevant to the child's unique circumstances and responsive to the child's changing needs.

The relevant audit measures assess compliance with the procedural requirements to document a plan of care within 30 days of a child's admission to care, to document a thorough assessment of the child's needs within six months, and to document reviews every 90 days while the child remains in care. The results should not be interpreted to conclude that a child in care's needs were not assessed and planned for because the procedural requirements were not met in some cases.

All audit measures that received non-compliance ratings were immediately brought to the attention of Team Leaders who ensured that outstanding work was completed.

Total # of Cases Audited: 249

	CRITICAL MEASURES	C		PC		NC		NA
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#
1	Preserving the Identity of an Aboriginal Child in Care <i>CIC Service Standard #1 and C&FS Standard #19</i>	198	79.5%	36	14.5%	15	6.0%	
2	Assuming Responsibility for a Child in Care <i>CIC Service Standard #4</i>	226	90.8%			23	9.2%	
3	Ensuring a Child's Safety While in Care <i>CIC Service Standard #5</i>	222	89.2%			27	10.8%	
4	Ensuring the Rights of a Child in Care <i>CIC Service Standard #6</i>	129	55.4%			104	44.6%	16
5	Involving a Child and Considering the Child's View in Case Planning and Decision Making <i>CIC Service Standard #8</i>	194	77.9%	25	10.0%	30	12.0%	
6	Maintaining Personal Contact with a Child in Care <i>CIC Service Standard #9</i>	143	57.4%			106	42.6%	
7	Meeting a Child's Need for Stability and Continuity of Lifelong Relationships <i>CIC Service Standard #10</i>	202	81.1%	35	14.1%	12	4.8%	
8	Assessments and Planning for a Child in Care <i>CIC Service Standard #11</i>	110	44.2%	80	32.1%	59	23.7%	
9	When a Child is Missing or has Run Away (Reportable Circumstance) <i>CIC Service Standard #14</i>	19	95.0%			1	5.0%	229
10	Notification of Fatalities, Critical Injuries and Serious Injuries (Reportable Circumstances) <i>C&FS Standard #24</i>	20	62.5%	1	3.1%	11	34.4%	217
11	Planning for a Child Leaving Care <i>CIC Service Standards #15 and #16</i>	68	85.0%			12	15.0%	169
12	Supervisory Approval	223	89.6%			26	10.4%	
	Total Applicable Indicators: 2,357 NA Ratings Not Included in Count	1,754	74.4%	177	7.5%	426	18.1%	631

= Number of applicable cases
% = Percent of total

Rating Definitions:

C Full Compliance to the standard

PC Partial Compliance: The intent of the standard is met but significant practice issues have not been addressed

NC Non-Compliance to the standard's criteria requirements

NA Not applicable to the standard being measured