



GOAL

Investigate deaths and injuries of children and youth receiving government services to ensure we learn from these incidents.

What does RCY do?

- When a child or youth who is receiving services from the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) dies or is critically injured, the Representative for Children and Youth (RCY) reviews, investigates and makes recommendations to improve services to help prevent similar injuries or deaths in the future.

How do we review and investigate?

- Reviews and investigations can take a number of forms. RCY can:
 - Review information on a number of injuries or deaths with similar characteristics to identify trends
 - Review all documents pertaining to a particular injury or death
 - Conduct a full-scale investigation of an individual death or injury including interviewing witnesses.
- RCY has the legal power to compel evidence, if needed.
- RCY reviews and investigations must not inhibit the progress of other proceedings such as police investigations, MCFD reviews, criminal justice proceedings and inquests.

How are critical injuries and deaths referred to us?

- Incidents involving children and youth receiving services from MCFD are automatically reported to RCY.
- Injuries and deaths of children and youth can also be referred to RCY by the B.C. Legislature's all-party Select Standing Committee on Children and Youth.
- RCY routinely compares numbers of injuries and deaths with MCFD and other agencies such as the BC Coroners Service to ensure our data is complete.

Who conducts reviews and investigations?

- RCY investigators review critical injuries and deaths.
- A multidisciplinary team of experts supports the Office in analyzing information, meeting to review evidence from both individual cases and from groups of similar cases.
- The team includes: representatives from MCFD and the BC Coroners Service as well as experts in public health, medicine, pathology, Aboriginal issues, police, education and the child-serving system.

How do we report?

- The Representative reports the results of reviews and investigations to the B.C. Legislature's all-party Select Standing Committee on Children and Youth.
- Results of reviews and investigations are also released to the general public.