



11-MONTH-OLD HIRA

AN INVESTIGATIVE REVIEW

Office of the Child and Youth Advocate, Alberta
March 2026

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Under my authority and duty as identified in Section 9.1 of the *Child and Youth Advocate Act (CYAA)*, the following is an individual investigative review regarding Hira. Her circumstances meet the criteria for a **systemic review**. Hira and her family were receiving Child Intervention through an Assessment at the time of her passing.

Investigative reviews are designed to improve the lives of young people by identifying ways to enhance services and supports, leading to system improvements and better outcomes for young people and their families.

The investigation process includes:

- Examination of critical issues
- Review of documentation and reports
- Review of policy and casework practice
- Personal interviews
- Other factors that may arise for consideration
- Notification and involvement of the young person's family, Band, Delegated First Nation Agency, community or cultural group, relevant Ministry, law enforcement agency, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Alberta Health Services, and any other person the Advocate considers appropriate.

In accordance with the *CYAA*, investigative reviews must be non-identifying. Therefore, the names used in these reports are pseudonyms (false names). Great care has been taken to protect their privacy; however, there is no guarantee that interested parties will be unable to identify them. Accordingly, readers and interested parties, including the media, should respect this privacy and not focus on identifying the individuals and locations involved in these matters.

Investigative reviews do not contain findings of legal responsibility or conclusions of law nor replace other processes that may occur, such as investigations or prosecutions under the *Criminal Code* of Canada. The intent of a review is not to find fault with specific individuals but to identify key issues and meaningful findings.

Hira's experiences were unique, and she left a lasting impression on those who knew and loved her. My heartfelt condolences go out to her family and those who cared about Hira.

Respectfully,

[Original signed by Terri Pelton]

Terri Pelton

Child and Youth Advocate (Alberta)

ABOUT HIRA AND HER FAMILY

Hira¹ was 11 months old when she was found unresponsive in the bathtub at home. Emergency medical services (EMS) responded and transported her to the hospital, where she later passed away. The police investigated and concluded their involvement. Medical staff determined that Hira died from complications of drowning; the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner continues to investigate her death. Hira and her family were receiving Child Intervention through an **Assessment**² at the time of her passing.

Hira was the youngest of Lina and Farid's children. She was a happy, smiley, and engaging infant who adored her older brother, Nabeel, and being with her family. Farid worked out of town for extended periods, and Lina was the children's primary caregiver.

SUMMARY OF HIRA'S EXPERIENCES WITH GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS

Hira from Birth to 11 Months Old

Hira was born healthy, and soon after, doctors detected a heart murmur. She was discharged with a referral to a specialist who assessed and monitored her. It was determined that she did not require additional follow-up.

Hira had limited systems involvement, and little is known about her circumstances. She received routine medical care for minor illnesses. When she was 11 months old, Hira was found unresponsive in the bathtub. Lina began cardiopulmonary resuscitation and called 911. EMS responded and transported her to the hospital. She had multiple tests that indicated a lack of oxygen had impacted her brain function. Hira was transferred to the pediatric intensive care unit and placed on life support. Doctors continued to monitor her brain functioning and made attempts to stabilize her health, but she did not respond. Hospital social workers arranged culturally relevant care, emotional support for Lina and Nabeel, and assisted with meals. Farid was informed about the incident and arrived at the hospital the same day.

The police were notified, and Child Intervention received a report about neglect related to inadequate supervision. Caseworkers and police officers spoke with the family and hospital staff, and it was determined that Hira had drowned accidentally; the police investigation concluded. Caseworkers and hospital staff arranged grief and loss support for her family.

Over the following two days, hospital staff and specialists monitored Hira; however, her condition did not improve. Doctors explained the extent of Hira's brain injury to her parents and indicated that her prognosis was poor. Lina and Farid consented to withdraw medical interventions, and shortly after, Hira passed away. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner continues to investigate her death. Hira is deeply missed by those who knew and loved her.

1. All names in the report are pseudonyms.
2. Bolded terms are defined in Appendix A.

TIMELINE OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Birth to 11 Months Old

- **Birth – 9 Months Old**
 - Born healthy
 - Heart murmur
 - Referred to specialist
- **11 Months Old**
 - Found unresponsive in bathtub
 - Emergency medical services responded
 - Pediatric intensive care unit
 - Hospital social work support
 - Police involvement
 - Child Intervention involvement

11-month-old Hira passed away

FINDINGS

Children and Family Services

When Hira was 11 months old, Child Intervention received a report about neglect. Concerns were related to inadequate supervision; she was found unresponsive in the bathtub and transported to the hospital. Caseworkers shared information with the police and medical professionals to coordinate services and inform planning. They collaborated with Lina and Farid to determine the family's needs and arranged appropriate supports before Hira passed away.

Health

Hira was diagnosed with a heart murmur after she was born. She had a timely referral to a specialist who determined she did not require further follow-up. She received appropriate routine medical care.

When Hira was 11 months old, she was admitted to the hospital after she was found unresponsive in the bathtub. She was assessed and received appropriate treatment. Medical professionals explained her prognosis to Lina and Farid and involved them in decision-making. Hospital staff shared information with the police and Child Intervention to inform assessments, and arranged culturally relevant services and grief and loss supports for the family.

THEMES TO TRACK

1. Collaboration and information sharing

Service providers from across systems shared information and collaborated to inform planning.

APPENDIX A: GLOSSARY

Assessment

The gathering and analysis of information to determine whether a child is in need of intervention under the *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act*.

Systemic Review

Under the *Child and Youth Advocate Act*, the Advocate may conduct a public review when a young person is seriously injured or dies while (or within two years of) receiving designated services (*Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act* intakes, assessments, post-18 supports, was in open or closed custody under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, and/or involvement under the *Protection of Sexually Exploited Children Act*) to determine if systemic issues are present.

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