



2-YEAR-OLD JULIEN

AN INVESTIGATIVE REVIEW

Office of the Child and Youth Advocate, Alberta
April 2026

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Under my authority and duty as identified in Section 9(2)(d) of the *Child and Youth Advocate Act (CYAA)*, the following is an individual investigative review regarding Julien. His circumstances meet the criteria for a **systemic review**. Julien and his family were receiving Child Intervention through an Intake at the time of his 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. Releasing individual reviews ensures that each young person's circumstance is reported in a consistent manner and provides increased transparency and public accountability. I believe that this is in the public interest. I will review and report annually on themes identified across the investigative reviews and include recommendations.

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.

Julien's experiences were unique, and he left a lasting impression on those who knew and loved him. My heartfelt condolences go out to his family and those who cared about Julien.

Respectfully,

[Original signed by Terri Pelton]

Terri Pelton

Child and Youth Advocate (Alberta)

ABOUT JULIEN AND HIS FAMILY

Julien¹ was two years old when he was taken to the hospital with severe head trauma, and shortly after passed away. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner concluded he died from accidental causes. The police investigated and determined his death was not the result of a criminal act. Julien was receiving Child Intervention through an **Intake**² at the time of his passing.

Julien was an adventurous First Nation toddler with a big smile. He enjoyed playing with toy dinosaurs, sharks and monster trucks. He was Blair and Leo's only child and was loved and brought joy to his family. They were connected to their Indigenous culture; Julien was learning his language and took part in ceremony.

SUMMARY OF JULIEN'S EXPERIENCES WITH GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS

Julien from Birth to 2 Years Old

Julien was born healthy and discharged to his parents' care. At six months old, he was hospitalized and treated for a lung infection. His parents received information about his follow up care, and he was discharged home. They were advised to contact their family doctor; however, follow-up did not occur.

At 18 months old, Julien was taken to the hospital after accidentally ingesting Tylenol. He had blood work, and Blair was instructed to bring him back for additional testing, but they did not return. Months later, Julien was taken to the hospital after he injured his leg jumping on a trampoline. Following x-rays and consultation with a pediatric specialist, he was fitted for a cast and discharged home. They returned to the hospital the following month to have the cast removed.

Five months later, Child Intervention received a report about neglect after two-year-old Julien was taken to the hospital by emergency medical services with severe head trauma. Blair was at a nearby cultural event and Julien was with a babysitter when he was injured. He required a breathing tube, and a brain scan was completed. Leo was out of town at the time of the injury. Several family and community members were present to provide Blair with emotional support.

A medical team, including doctors, nurses, social workers and surgeons, developed a treatment plan that included brain surgery, and Julien's parents were kept informed

about his condition. It was determined that Julien's injury was too severe and he would not survive. Caseworkers remained involved until after his passing and worked with hospital staff to identify resources for the family. Hospital social workers and the chaplain offered emotional support and spiritual care, and the family's Elder arranged prayer and smudging.

The medical team met with Blair and Leo to discuss their son's prognosis and answer questions. It was agreed that life-supporting measures would be in place so relatives could come to the hospital to say their goodbyes. Prints of Julien's hands and feet were taken and given to his family.

Following the removal of life support, two-year-old Julien passed away in his parents' arms. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner concluded he died from accidental causes and the police have concluded their investigation and determined that Julien's death was not the result of a criminal act. A funeral and wake were held to honour him, and he was buried in his First Nation. Julien is deeply missed by his family, who continue to grieve his sudden loss.

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

TIMELINE OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Birth to 2 Years Old

- **Birth – 1 Year Old**

- Medical care for illness and accidental injuries

- **2 Years Old**

- Hospitalized for head trauma
- Police investigation concluded as non-criminal
- Child Intervention involvement

2-year-old Julien passed away

FINDINGS

Children and Family Services

Child Intervention became involved when two-year-old Julien was hospitalized with severe head trauma. Caseworkers collaborated with his parents and professionals, shared information, and provided compassionate services.

Health

Doctors, social workers, and other hospital professionals provided timely, collaborative, and coordinated services to Julien and his family. Health professionals were compassionate and helped his parents understand his medical condition and prognosis.

THEMES TO TRACK

1. Collaboration and information sharing

Service providers collaborated and shared information so that services were timely, compassionate and coordinated.

APPENDIX A: GLOSSARY

Intake

A report completed when Child Intervention Services receives a community or professional concern about possible risk to a child as per 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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