



2-YEAR-OLD SIMONE

AN INVESTIGATIVE REVIEW

Office of the Child and Youth Advocate, Alberta
May 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 Simone. Her circumstances meet the criteria for a **mandatory review**. Simone and her family had received Child Intervention through an Enhancement Agreement within two years 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.

Simone'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 Simone.

Respectfully,

[Original signed by Terri Pelton]

Terri Pelton

Child and Youth Advocate (Alberta)

ABOUT SIMONE AND HER FAMILY

Simone¹ was two years old when she was the victim of violence and passed away.² Simone and her family had received Child Intervention through an **Enhancement Agreement (EA)**³ within two years of her passing.

Simone was a sweet toddler and was part of a blended family. She was Delano and Rochelle's only child together. They separated before her birth, and Delano did not have contact with his daughter.

SUMMARY OF SIMONE'S EXPERIENCES WITH GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS

Simone from Birth to 2 Years Old

Simone had limited systems involvement in her first year. She was born healthy and received routine medical care. Rochelle was a single mother to Simone and her older sister, Bethany.

When Simone was 17 months old, Child Intervention received a report about neglect and emotional injury. She and three-year-old Bethany had been left alone at home for two days while Rochelle used substances and had overdosed.

Rochelle entered into an EA and had in-home supports. She completed parenting courses and addiction and mental health counselling. Simone and Bethany were enrolled in daycare and met their developmental milestones. A safety plan was developed with Rochelle and her relatives, and they agreed to monitor the family and help with the children as needed. Involvement ended at the conclusion of the EA.

At two years old, Simone was taken to a local hospital four times for fevers, stomach pains, and flu-like symptoms. She was treated and discharged home, at times, with medication. Three days after her last hospital visit, Simone was the victim of violence and passed away. A funeral was held to remember her; Simone is deeply missed by those who knew and loved her.

1. All names in the report are pseudonyms.
2. Details about Simone's death are not provided to protect her privacy.
3. Bolded terms are defined in Appendix A.

TIMELINE OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Birth to 2 Years Old

- **Parents separated**
- **Born healthy**
 - Raised by mother
- **1 - 2 Years Old**
 - Child Intervention involvement
 - Enhancement Agreement
 - 4 hospital visits
 - Treated and discharged with medication

2-year-old Simone passed away

FINDINGS

Children and Family Services

When Simone was 17 months old, Child Intervention received a report about neglect and emotional injury. Caseworkers arranged in-home supports and connected Rochelle to community-based parenting, addiction, and mental health services. She and her family members were involved in case planning, and an appropriate safety plan was developed before involvement ended.

Health

Simone was taken to the hospital four times for minor illnesses; she received prompt treatment and was discharged, at times, with medication.

THEMES TO TRACK

1. Services and supports

Child Intervention and Health services were delivered as intended.

APPENDIX A: GLOSSARY

Mandatory Review

Under the *Child and Youth Advocate Act*, the Advocate must conduct a Mandatory Review when a young person dies who had an agreement or order under the *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act* at the time of or within two years of their death. A public report must be released within one year of being notified of the young person's death.

Enhancement Agreement (EA)

A voluntary agreement under the *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act* to provide services and support to a family or a young person who is 16 or 17 years old. It is intended to address protection concerns while the child remains with a guardian or lives independently.

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