



6-YEAR-OLD XAVIAN

AN INVESTIGATIVE REVIEW

Office of the Child and Youth Advocate, Alberta
August 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 Xavian. His circumstances meet the criteria for a **systemic review**. Xavian and his family had received Child Intervention through an Intake within two years 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.

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.

Xavian'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 Xavian.

Respectfully,

[Original signed by Terri Pelton]

Terri Pelton

Child and Youth Advocate (Alberta)

ABOUT XAVIAN AND HIS FAMILY

Xavian¹ was six years old when he passed away after an accident.² The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner concluded that he died as a result of his injuries. The police investigated, and charges were laid. Xavian and his family had received Child Intervention through an **Intake**³ within two years of his passing.

Xavian was an active and inquisitive First Nation child who enjoyed exploring his surroundings. He was the youngest child of Gia and Harrison's three children, and they lived in their Nation.

SUMMARY OF XAVIAN'S EXPERIENCES WITH GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS

Xavian from Birth to 6 Years Old

Xavian was born healthy and discharged to his parents' care. He returned to the hospital shortly after and was treated for jaundice before being discharged home. Approximately 10 months later, Child Intervention received a report about emotional injury related to family violence. Gia and Harrison had a physical altercation, and she was charged with assault; a No-Contact Order (NCO) was obtained. A safety plan was developed, and Gia and the children went to her mother's home until the NCO ended. Caseworkers discussed the impacts of family violence on the children's development, and a support network meeting was held to ensure that the Order was followed. As Xavian and his siblings did not witness the incident, and the family was cooperative, it was determined that the concerns had been addressed; intervention involvement ended.

Over the next three years, Xavian received routine medical care and saw the doctor for minor illnesses and injuries. His parents noted delays in his speech, and two months before his fifth birthday, Xavian was assessed. He was diagnosed with a language development disorder and began occupational and speech and language therapy. Gia and Harrison discussed concerns that Xavian may have autism with their doctor. He was referred for testing, which was arranged but not completed prior to his passing.

When Xavian was five years old, he fractured his arm while playing. He was treated at the local health centre and discharged home. He continued to receive speech and language support, and his parents often attended the appointments with him. He was registered in school for the following year.

Child Intervention received a report about emotional injury related to family violence. Gia and Harrison had a physical altercation, and he was charged with assault. An NCO was obtained, and Gia and their two older children went to stay with her mother, while Xavian was sent to live with his paternal grandmother until the NCO ended. A safety plan was developed, and additional services were offered, but Gia and Harrison refused. A support network was established before intervention involvement ended.

Three months later, six-year-old Xavian passed away after an accident. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner concluded that he died as a result of his injuries. The police investigated, and charges were laid. Xavian is deeply loved, and his family is devastated by his sudden and unexpected loss.

1. All names in the report are pseudonyms.

2. Details about Xavian's death are not provided to protect his privacy.

3. Bolded terms are defined in Appendix A.

TIMELINE OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Birth to 6 Years Old

- **6 Days Old**

- Hospitalized for jaundice

- **11 Months Old**

- Incident of family violence between parents
 - Mother charged
 - No-Contact Order (NCO)
- Child Intervention involvement

- **3 – 4 Years Old**

- Assessed
 - Diagnosed with a language development disorder
- Occupational and speech and language therapy
 - Referred for autism testing

- **5 Years Old**

- Incident of family violence between parents
 - Father charged
 - NCO
- Child Intervention involvement

6-year-old Xavian passed away

FINDINGS

Children and Family Services

Child Intervention was involved with Xavian and his family twice over six years because of family violence. Caseworkers developed safety plans with the family, appropriately involved their support network, and discussed the impact of the violence on the children's development before involvements ended.

Health

Xavian received routine medical care for minor childhood illnesses and injuries. When concerns were noted for his development, he had timely assessments and was diagnosed with speech delays. He was supported by occupational and speech and language therapists. When his parents discussed concerns with his doctor about potential autism, Xavian was promptly referred for testing, which was not completed prior to his passing.

THEMES TO TRACK

1. Services and supports

Child Intervention and Health services were delivered as intended

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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