



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

OFFICE OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

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REPORT ON THE NEAR DEATH OF



BORN: 01/10/2008
Date of Incident: 01/30/2010

**FAMILY WAS NOT KNOWN TO:
ANY PUBLIC PRIVATE CHILD WELFARE AGENCY**

This report is confidential under the provisions of the Child Protective Services Law and cannot be released.

(23 Pa. C.S. Section 6340)

Unauthorized release is prohibited under penalty of law.

(23 Pa. C.S. 6349 (b))

Reason for Review.

Senate Bill No. 1147, now known as Act 33 was signed by [REDACTED] on December 30, 2008 and went into effect 180 days from that date. This Act amends the Child Protective Services Law (CPSL) and sets standards for reviewing and reporting child fatalities and near child fatalities as a result of suspected child abuse. DPW must conduct child fatality and near fatality reviews and provide a written report on any child fatality or near fatality where child abuse is suspected.

1. Family Constellation:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
[REDACTED]	victim child	01/10/2008
[REDACTED]	mother	[REDACTED] 1983
[REDACTED]	father	[REDACTED] 1983

Notification of Fatality / Near Fatality:

[REDACTED] report was received on 1/30/2010 stating that the biological father was watching victim child on 1/29/2010. Child appeared to be ill: vomiting and wobbly on her feet. Biological mother thought she had a virus. Biological mother was out of the house caring for maternal grandmother who was dying from [REDACTED]. Biological mother was in contact with biological father. Biological father's last call to biological mother said he might check out because he took a "bunch of [REDACTED]". Biological father tried [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on 1/29/2010 and the biological mother sought an [REDACTED] against the biological father. Biological mother took the child to CHOP on 01/30/2010 because child was wobbly on her feet. CHOP performed [REDACTED] and determined that the child had [REDACTED]. Child had [REDACTED] and multiple bald spots on her head.

2. Documents Reviewed and Individuals Interviewed:

For this review, the Southeast Regional Office (SERO) reviewed the county case file. SERO interviewed the county Child Protective Services caseworker for the most current status of investigation, attended the County's Act 33 Meeting regarding this case on 02/19/2010; and interviewed Detective [REDACTED] from the Philadelphia Police Department.

Case Chronology:**Previous CY involvement:**

No Previous history with any child welfare agency

Circumstances of Child's Fatality or Near Fatality:

During the course of the investigation biological mother noted that the child usually would be in daycare but was out for one week. Child was being watched by different

people (mother's little sister, cousin, and biological dad). On 1/29/2010 biological mother states that she received a call from biological father stating that the child was vomiting and sick. Biological mother stated that it was probably a [REDACTED] and told biological father to give child [REDACTED] and make sure child drinks a lot of liquid. Biological father called biological mother back and told biological mother to hurry home because he just took a [REDACTED] [REDACTED] called 911 and fire rescue went to the home and said they could not make biological father go to the hospital and he did not appear to be medically ill so they left prior to biological mother's arrival. After biological mother returned home, biological father drank [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] himself with knives, and attempted to swallow more [REDACTED]. Biological mother called 911 again and this time they restrained biological father and biological mother had to go to the hospital to seek [REDACTED] against the father. Child was being watched by paternal aunt and she would not stop vomiting. Paternal aunt called biological mother to state that she believed the child needed to go to the hospital. Biological mother left [REDACTED] after she sought [REDACTED] against biological father to get the child and took child to CHOP ER. After arriving, child continued to cry and then vomited dark green. [REDACTED] was taken and it was determined that the child was in need of surgery for [REDACTED]. It was determined that [REDACTED] resulting in [REDACTED] into her stomach causing her to get increasingly worse.

Current / most recent status of case:

- This case was [REDACTED] on 03/22/2010, due to [REDACTED]. Child suffered severe pain and impairment which required child to have surgery to repair a [REDACTED].
- Biological father was arrested on 03/17/2010 and charged with Aggravated Assault and remains at [REDACTED] Correctional Facility.

Services to children and families:

Family was referred to [REDACTED] but due to the death of child's maternal grandmother, these services never took place. Maternal grandmother died from [REDACTED] on 5/4/2010.

County Strengths and Deficiencies as identified by the County's Near Fatality Report:

Strengths-

- DHS showed concern to biological mother with the death of maternal grandmother. Although [REDACTED] were delayed for [REDACTED] period and ultimately never put into place due to closing of the case on 5/17/2010, DHS continued to maintain contact with biological mother.

Deficiencies-

- DHS worker did not discuss with mother whether or not she was involved in domestic violence. Allegations had been made that biological father threatened to kill biological mother (uncertain whether this was on-going).

County Recommendations for changes at the Local (County or State) Levels as identified by way of County's Near Fatality Report:

None identified.

SERO Findings:County Strengths-

- Investigation was done timely.

Deficiencies-

- DHS workers should be trained on how to apply the knowledge from domestic violence trainings into their investigation, such as any protection from abuse orders.

Statutory and Regulatory Compliance issues:

None identified.