



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:



Date of Birth: 3/3/13
Date of Incident: 6/28/13
Date of Oral Report: 6/28/13

FAMILY NOT KNOWN TO:

Any Children & Youth agency

REPORT FINALIZED ON:

March 25, 2014

Unredacted reports are confidential under the provisions of the Child Protective Services Law and cannot be released to the public.
(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 1147, Printer's Number 2159 was signed into law on July 3, 2008. The bill became effective on December 30, 2008 and is known as Act 33 of 2008. As part of Act 33 of 2008, DPW must conduct a review and provide a written report of all cases of suspected child abuse that result in a child fatality or near fatality. This written report must be completed as soon as possible but no later than six months after the date the report was registered with ChildLine for investigation.

Act 33 of 2008 also requires that county children and youth agencies convene a review when a report of child abuse involving a child fatality or near fatality is indicated or when a status determination has not been made regarding the report within 30 days of the oral report to ChildLine. Berks County has not convened a review team in accordance with Act 33 of 2008 related to this report because the county determined the report Unfounded within 30 days.

Family Constellation:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth:</u>
[REDACTED]	victim child	3/3/13
[REDACTED]	mother	[REDACTED] 74
[REDACTED]	father	[REDACTED] /72
[REDACTED]	brother	[REDACTED] /93
[REDACTED]	sister	[REDACTED] /98
[REDACTED]	sister	[REDACTED] /97

Notification of Child Near Fatality:

On June 28, 2013, Berks County Children and Youth Services received a [REDACTED] alleging that a 3 1/2 month old child had fractures to both sides of his skull. The child was initially taken to Reading Medical Center and then transferred to Hersey Medical Center via ambulance. The mother explained the child rolled off the bed and fell to the floor as she was reaching for a clean diaper. Both she and the child were on the bed. Medical staff at Reading Medical Center felt this explanation was inconsistent with the injuries and suspected physical abuse. However, after several days of observation by medical staff at Hersey Medical Center, they determined the mother's statement of the incident to be consistent with the injury. The child was observed as very active and able to roll over and around on his own.

Summary of DPW Child Near Fatality Review Activities:

For this review, the Southeast Regional Office (SERO) reviewed all records and case notes for the victim child during the investigation. SERO reviewed the county's investigation/assessment, structured case notes, safety assessments, safety plans, and risk assessment.

Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:

The family has no prior history with any children and youth agency.

Circumstances of Child Near Fatality and Related Case Activity:

Berks County Children and Youth Services received the referral regarding the child on June 28, 2013. The county then contacted Dauphin County CYC to conduct a courtesy 24 hour contact with the child since the child was in Hershey Medical Center in Dauphin County. The Berks county caseworker subsequently saw the child in the hospital and obtained his medical status.

A safety plan was developed by the county with the family to ensure the safety of the child. The mother would have no unsupervised contact with the child. The father or the adult sibling in the home would be present at all times when the mother was in contact with the child, both at the hospital or in the home. There were no safety concerns for the other two minor teenage children in the home.

The caseworker interviewed all family members and medical staff. The hospital reported that the child had no other injuries or medical issues. The other children had no signs of injury. Medical staff observed the child to be very active and able to roll around himself. The injury sustained was consistent with the mother's statements and an accidental fall.

On July 11, 2013, [REDACTED]. The agency determined that no further services were required.

Current Case Status:

The child was [REDACTED] the following day. There are no ongoing medical concerns. No criminal charges were filed since this was determined to be accidental.

County Strengths, Deficiencies and Recommendations for Change as Identified by the County's Child Near Fatality Report:

Berks County did not convene a review team in accordance with Act 33 of 2008 related to this report because the county determined the report Unfounded within 30 days.

- Strengths: N/A
- Deficiencies: N/A
- Recommendations for Change at the Local Level: N/A
- Recommendations for Change at the State Level: N/A

Department Review of County Internal Report:

N/A

Department of Public Welfare Findings:

- County Strengths: The county provided clear documentation in the case notes and investigation report. All relevant parties were interviewed. Children were seen in a timely manner. The county collaborated with the hospitals and a neighboring county to ensure the child's safety.
- County Weaknesses: None identified.
- Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance: None identified.

Department of Public Welfare Recommendations:

It is recommended that parents are educated about procedures for safe diaper changing, similar to those for "back to sleep" and proper car seats for children.