



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

## **REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:**



**Date of Birth: 12/3/1994**  
**Date of Incident: 10/22/2012**  
**Date of Oral Report: 10/22/2012**

**FAMILY KNOWN TO:**  
**Montgomery County Children and Youth Services**

**REPORT FINALIZED ON:**  
**1/23/14**

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. The Montgomery County of Children and Youth did not convene for a review. On 11/20/12 the case was unfounded. The victim child's injuries were not a result of child abuse or neglect.

**Family Constellation:**

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth:</u>
██████████	Victim Child	12/3/1994
██████████	Mother	██████/1967
██████████	Father	██████/1965
██████████	Sibling	██████/1998
██████████	Sibling	██████2000

**Notification of Child (Near) Fatality:**

On October 22, 2012 The Montgomery County of Children and Youth received a Child Protective Services report ██████████. Victim child, ██████████ was admitted to Lankenau Medical Center, ██████████ for ingesting an overdose of aspirins. The mother cancelled the EMS call that the father made and attempted to treat the victim child at home. Dr. ██████████ at Lankenau Medical Center certified the victim child to be in critical condition. The victim child was in ██████████ on suicidal watch.

**Summary of DPW Child (Near) Fatality Review Activities:**

For this review the Southeast Regional Office (SERO) reviewed the case structured progress notes and relevant correspondence completed by ██████████, OCY County Agency Worker, ██████████, OCY County Agency Worker, ██████████, OCY County Case Worker. On 10/23/12, 10/31/12 SERO conducted follow up interviews with ██████████, OCY Quality Assurance Administrator /Fatality Team. Reviewed documentation completed by ██████████, MD Lankenau Medical Center and ██████████, Social Worker, Lankenau Medical Center,

## **Summary of Services to Family:**

### **Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:**

#### **Unsubstantiated**

On October 14, 2011 Montgomery County Office of Children and Youth (OCY) received a CPS report. [REDACTED] The reporting source reported the mother and father brought in the sibling, [REDACTED] for a wellness visit. The mother and father stated the sibling had a lack of energy. The 13 year old male sibling reported the father beats him at home. The sibling stated one month ago he was beat with a wooden stick by father. The reporting source stated that the sibling reported there was no pain or injury. The reporting source reported the father had loaded guns in the home. The sibling was suicidal and [REDACTED]. The County case worker documented that the father reported they use physical discipline on the children. The father stated he spansks the children with his hand or a wooden cooking spoon. The County case worker discussed with the father appropriate disciplinary interventions for children. The father reported that his job requires him to carry a gun. The father reported he had three guns, one he carries all the time and the two other guns are at home locked up and inaccessible to the children. The case was not opened for ongoing services.

### **Circumstances of Child (Near) Fatality and Related Case Activity:**

On 10/22/12 The Montgomery County Office of Children and Youth (OCY) received a CPS report that alleged the mother refused to seek medical attention for the victim child. The child had taken 300 aspirins and the mother attempted to administer medical attention for the child. The child was transported to Lankenau Hospital and [REDACTED]. According to [REDACTED] Lankenau Hospital the mother was a practicing physician in China. [REDACTED] reported while the mother was at the hospital with the victim child she continued to [REDACTED]. Since the mother was a practicing physician in China she was interfering with the doctor's treatment decisions. The medical staff asked the mother not to [REDACTED]. Eventually the medical staff requested assistance from security at the hospital. The medical doctor and security asked the mother to leave the hospital and not to return to [REDACTED] until the following day. The hospital was initially concerned with the victim child's [REDACTED]. According to the interviews with the siblings, the father and the victim child had a verbal altercation which resulted in the father telling the victim child to leave the home and not to return. The victim child's medical history indicates that he has a [REDACTED]. On 10/22/12 the OCY caseworker, made telephone contact with the Lankenau [REDACTED]. The Lankenau [REDACTED] informed the caseworker that the incident was identified as a near fatality and a suicide attempt. The hospital social worker interviewed the siblings and the mother at the hospital. The medical team had no safety concerns with the siblings returning to the home. The OCY case manager attempted contact with the [REDACTED] Detective to discuss the family referral. On 10/23/12 OCY conducted a face to face safety visit with the victim child at the hospital and a home visit to ensure safety. The OCY caseworker interviewed the mother and the siblings; the siblings were not fearful of mother and father and denied suicidal ideations. The OCY caseworker was unable to make a face to face interview with the father. The father works late in the evenings. The OCY case manager conducted a telephone interview with the

father. During the interview the mother disclosed that the father has a gun. OCY addressed the gun in the home. The father reported he had three licensed guns, one gun he carries all the time and two guns are inaccessible to the children.

The father reported the victim child and himself were arguing on 10/21/12 between 11:30pm and 12:00 am. The father stated that he was not pleased with the victim child's progress in school, because his grades are poor. The father stated the victim child spends too much time on the internet and not enough time with his homework assignments. The father reported to the caseworker that he told the victim child to get out of his house. The father reported that he will use physical and verbal discipline on his children. The father stated he will yell or spank the children on their hands or buttocks. The father reported on 10/22/12 the victim child was downstairs in the bathroom vomiting. The mother wanted to drive the victim child to the hospital. The father reported he wanted to call the ambulance but the mother transported the victim child to Lankenau Hospital. The doctor at Lankenau stated the victim child's ingestion of the aspirins was a suicidal attempt.

On 10/23/12 OCY completed an In Home Safety Assessment: the children were safe and the victim child was still hospitalized. On 10/24/12 the victim child was transferred from Lankenau Hospital to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). On 10/28/12 the victim child [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The mother and father participated in the family meetings [REDACTED]

On 11/5/13 the victim child was [REDACTED] to home. The OCY caseworkers explained to the mother and father that the case will be opened for ongoing services.

### Current Case Status

- On 11/15/12 the victim child was [REDACTED] to home.
- On 11/2/12 the family was opened for ongoing services, to ensure that the parents follow through with [REDACTED] for the children.
- On 11/13/12 OCY and the family agreed upon a family service plan; the goals for the family: the mother and father will provide and maintain living conditions that are free from health and safety hazards. Parents will ensure that children do not have access to guns or other dangerous items. The mother and father will ensure that the children receive preventive health and dental care for children and the parents will attend the appointments as scheduled. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The mother and father will obtain emergency services for any of the children if they observe them to be a threat to themselves or others. The mother and father will maintain consistent communication with OCY. The mother and father agreed to allow OCY to conduct scheduled and unannounced home visits.

- The Detective reported all parties involved were interviewed and no charges were filed.

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

- Strengths:  
OCY immediately provided information to SERO as requested. The case county workers interviewed and completed a thorough investigation.
- Deficiencies:  
There were no areas of concern.
- Recommendations for Change at the Local Level and Recommendations for Change at the State Level:  
There were no areas of concern.

**Department Review of County Internal Report:**

The Montgomery County of Children and Youth did not convene for a review. The victim child's injuries were not the result of child abuse or neglect.

**Department of Public Welfare Findings:**

- County Strengths: OCY provided the information within the required time frames. The family was opened for on-going supportive services from OCY. The family will receive services from [REDACTED]
- County Weaknesses: There were no areas of concern.
- Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance: There were no areas of concern.

**Department of Public Welfare Recommendations:**

The Department did not have any recommendations regarding this investigation. This case was not a result of services not provided by the Montgomery Office of Children and Youth (OCY).