



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

REPORT ON THE FATALITY OF:

ELIJAH ROSADO

Date of Birth: 03-10-2001

Date of Death: 10-05-2013

Date of Oral Report: 10-05-2013

**FAMILY KNOWN TO
Philadelphia Department of Human Services**

**REPORT FINALIZED:
09-08-2014**

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. Philadelphia County Department of Human Services (DHS) has convened a review team in accordance with Act 33 of 2008 related to this report. The Regional Office also participated in the County Internal Fatality Review Team meeting on October 15, 2013 where history of the case was presented by DHS.

Family Constellation:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth:</u>
██████████	Biological Mother	██████████ 1978
Elijah Rosado	Mother's Paramour	██████████ 1987
	Victim Child	03-10-2001

Notification of Child Fatality:

On October 5, 2013, ██████████, mother, and her son, Elijah Rosado were found dead under a burning mattress in a closet in their apartment. The exact circumstances of the child's death are unknown. This incident is still under investigation by the Philadelphia Police Department. The child's death was only reported as a fatality due to a supervisor at DHS seeing the incident on the news. Elijah reportedly had a number of stab wounds, and his mother had been beaten. Police have arrested ██████████ who was reportedly ██████████. He reportedly told the neighbor not to call emergency services about smoke coming out of the apartment because he had the situation under control.

Summary of DPW Child Fatality Review Activities:

The Southeast Region Office of Children, Youth and Families obtained and reviewed all current and past case records pertaining to the ██████████ family. Follow up interviews were conducted with the Caseworker and the Supervisor ██████████. The Regional Office also participated in the County Internal Fatality Review Team meeting on October 15, 2013 where the medical examiner's report, police reports and DHS history and current investigation were presented.

Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:

The family had previously been open with DHS on multiple occasions. DHS received a ██████████ report on June 6, 2005 alleging that numerous adults were sleeping

upstairs in the home and the children were left alone and they were wearing only soiled diapers. It was also alleged that the children had lice and the home was filthy. This report was [REDACTED] however no services were provided.

On July 1 2005, the agency received a [REDACTED] report alleging that there were several adults in the home and it appears that they were drug users as well. This report was [REDACTED] and Services to Children in the Own Homes (SCOH) were provided in accordance with the information below.

On December 8, 2006, the agency received a [REDACTED] report alleging that there was no food for the victim child. This report was [REDACTED].

On July 12, 2005, DHS implemented SCOH Services [REDACTED]. These services were terminated on August 2, 2007. DHS closed their case and referred the family to their prevention services. The family then received [REDACTED] a voluntary [REDACTED] from August 8, 2013 to October 1, 2013.

The case was reopened with DHS on September 13, 2013. Following a [REDACTED] report on August 29, 2013 alleging that the victim child was caught shoplifting with his mother at a grocery store. This report was [REDACTED]. On September 24, 2013, DHS implemented In-Home Protective Services (IHPS) through [REDACTED] however, a request for discharge of services was submitted and remained active until IHPS was implemented by [REDACTED]. The family only met with the IHPS service provider on September 26, 2013 for the initial planning meeting. They were unable to provide further services for the family as the worker was unable to make additional contacts with the family.

Circumstances of Child Fatality and Related Case Activity:

Due to being a flight risk, neither the police nor DHS revealed [REDACTED] until he was apprehended. After his apprehension, his name was disclosed to the general public as the [REDACTED] of the crime. The biological father was not a suspect or a person of interest; however he was notified of the incident. He was also offered services to deal with his loss. The Department of Human Services received calls from family members and neighbors after the incident stating that [REDACTED] was abusive and that the mother never wanted anyone to know of her relationship with him. DHS discovered that there were allegations that he had a fight with the brother-in-law of the mother, which resulted in the brother-in-law's hospitalization. This information supported the hypothesis that [REDACTED] was engaged in domestic violence with the mother.

Current Case Status:

[REDACTED], was arrested on October 8, 2013 for the deaths; he is being detained by the Philadelphia police. He has confessed to the crimes and remains incarcerated as he awaits trial. He has been charged with: murder, arson – danger of death or bodily injury, causing catastrophe, theft by unlawful taking – moveable property, receiving

stolen property, possession of instrument of crime with intent, abuse of corpse, and recklessly endangering another person.

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

Philadelphia County convened a review team meeting on October 15, 2013

- Strengths: There was a clear indication of team work during the provision of services to the family as well as during the investigation.
- Deficiencies: Although the mother did not disclose information of her relationship, there should have been some probing questions relating to domestic violence.
- Recommendations for Change at the Local Level: More domestic violence training or information should be available for public consumption.
- Recommendations for Change at the State Level: Domestic Violence information should be more pronounced in the daily or weekly public announcements.

Department Review of County Internal Report:

The Department agrees with the County in the areas of services provided to the family and efforts made to conduct the investigation in collaboration with the Philadelphia police.

Department of Public Welfare Findings:

- County Strengths: There was a clear indication of team work during the provision of services to the family as well as during the investigation
- County Weaknesses: Although the mother did not disclose information of her relationship, the investigation should have included an assessment of whether domestic violence was occurring.
- Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance:
None Identified

Department of Public Welfare Recommendations:

Some domestic violence training should be infused into the daily operational activities of DHS so that Social Workers will be able to identify or inquire about domestic violence issues during the course of their investigations and during the provision of services.