



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

REPORT ON THE FATALITY OF:

Adeline O'Laughlin

Date of Birth: August 12, 2011

Date of Death: October 18, 2012

Date of Oral Report: October 19, 2012

FAMILY NOT KNOWN TO:

Allegheny County Office of Children, Youth and Families

REPORT FINALIZED ON:

12/23/13

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))

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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. Allegheny County has not convened a review team in accordance with Act 33 of 2008 related to this report. Allegheny County Office of Children, Youth and Families [REDACTED] the ChildLine report within the first 30 days of the investigation.

Family Constellation:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth:</u>
Adeline O'Laughlin [REDACTED]	Victim Child	August 12, 2011
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED] 1980
[REDACTED]	Father	Deceased

Notification of Child (Near) Fatality:

On October 18, 2012, the [REDACTED] Police Department had received a phone call from 911 stating that a child at the [REDACTED] was found nonresponsive. An ambulance and the [REDACTED] Police Department were dispatched to the scene. [REDACTED] made a report to [REDACTED] on October 19, 2012 reporting the child's fatality.

The Western Region Office of Children, Youth and Families received the preliminary notification of the fatality of Adeline O'Laughlin on October 19, 2012. It was reported that the child died on October 18, 2012 at the [REDACTED] Day Care Center.

It was reported that the child was put down for a nap by the [REDACTED] for approximately two hours at the request of the child's mother. The room the child napped in was dark and had no windows. As per the report, the child "whimpered and cried". The child then quieted down and it was assumed the child had fallen asleep. The day care operator turned on the lights to check on the child approximately thirty minutes later and the child was unresponsive. The day care operator reported the child usually woke up immediately when the lights were turned on. She knew then that something was wrong. The [REDACTED] admitted initially that the child was unsupervised and even if staff had been supervising,

the child could not have been seen due to the darkness of the room. Due to the day care operator's non-compliance with supervision and not being able to see the child at all times, this was considered [REDACTED] which might have facilitated in the child's death.

Summary of DPW Child (Near) Fatality Review Activities:

The Western Regional Office of Children, Youth, and Families spoke immediately with Department of Public Welfare, Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) Western Region Office to determine what course of action they would be taking with the day care facility. The OCDEL office had received a complaint regarding this incident. The Department also contacted Allegheny County Office of Children, Youth and Families to assure they had obtained information from the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, Office of Child Development and Early Learning Western Region Office to complete their [REDACTED] investigation. In addition, the Department obtained a written summary of the actions taken by OCDEL in regards to [REDACTED]

Summary of Services to Family:

No services were rendered to the family through the Allegheny Office of Children, Youth and Families.

Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:

Allegheny County Office of Children, Youth and Families had no prior involvement with the family.

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

Adeline attended the [REDACTED] for day care services. [REDACTED] had instructed the day care to allow Adeline to nap for approximately two hours in a dark, quiet room. On October 18, 2012, the day care staff had put the child down for a nap and had left the room. The day care staff had heard Adeline cry and whimper, but the child had then settled and it was assumed she had fallen asleep. Approximately, thirty minutes later the day care proprietor had returned to the room and turned on the lights. Adeline did not wake as was her normal response to the lights being turned on. The day care staff knew immediately something was wrong. She noticed that Adeline was non-responsive and immediately contacted 911. The child was transported via ambulance to [REDACTED]. The child was pronounced dead later that afternoon.

The autopsy report indicated that the child did not die as the result of [REDACTED]. Adeline's autopsy results indicated Sudden Unexplained Death.

The initial [REDACTED] report was filed on October 19, 2012 reporting the child fatality had occurred at [REDACTED] in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The date of the fatality was October 18, 2012. Allegheny County OCYF [REDACTED] and submitted the completed [REDACTED] on November 16, 2012 with the report being [REDACTED]. The medical examiner's findings revealed no physical condition consistent with the [REDACTED] definition of [REDACTED].

Current Case Status:

There is no case activity between the child's family and the Allegheny County OCYF. The family was never known to Allegheny County OCYF and there are no other children in the home.

Based on actions taken by the Department of Public Welfare, Office of Child Development and Early Learning, Western Region Office, the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] lost their license and was closed on October 22, 2012.

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

Allegheny County Office of Children, Youth and Families did not complete a Child Fatality Report given that the allegations were [REDACTED] within the first 30 days of the [REDACTED].

Department Review of County Internal Report:

Allegheny County Office of Children, Youth and Families did not complete a Child Fatality Report given that the allegations were [REDACTED] within the first 30 days of the [REDACTED].

Department of Public Welfare Findings:

The Department of Public Welfare, Office of Children, Youth and Families, Western Region agrees with the determination made by Allegheny County Office of Children, Youth and Families. On November 16, 2012, the report of [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. The [REDACTED] Police Department [REDACTED] once the County Coroner determined that the child had died from Sudden Unexplained Death.

It is the determination of the Department that the follow up [REDACTED] to this fatality by both the Office of Child Development and Early Learning and Allegheny County Office of Children, Youth and Families was swift and efficient. OCDEL completed its own internal investigation of the incident. OCDEL concluded due to repeated offenses of lack of supervision, and the agency not complying with the required staff to child ratio on the date of the child's death, the only option was to obtain an emergency removal order which shut down the day care facility.

Allegheny County OCYF completed its [REDACTED] within thirty days and based on the cause of death determined by the Medical Examiner's Office the report was [REDACTED].

Department of Public Welfare Recommendations:

The Department of Public Welfare has no recommendations for the county.