



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:



Date of Birth: 3/10/14
Date of Incident: 7/8/14
Date of Oral Report: 7/8/14

FAMILY NOT KNOWN TO:

Any Children and Youth Agency

REPORT FINALIZED ON:
6/18/15

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 has convened a review team in accordance with Act 33 of 2008 related to this report.

Family Constellation:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth:</u>
██████████	Victim child	3/10/14
██████████	Mother	██████/93
██████████	Father	██████/84

*Parents and child alternated staying between the MGM's home and the PGM's home prior to the incident date. As a result of the report, once the child ██████████ the hospital and ██████████, the child and mother reside with the MGM and the father resides with the PGM.

Notification of Child Near Fatality:

On 7/8/14, Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS) received a CPS report alleging that the four month old was hospitalized at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children due to a ██████████. The cause of the injury was unknown, however, the injury was consistent with being shaken. The child had been in the care of her father at the time. He states he was lying down with the child and when he got up the child was limp and grey. When he picked her up, her head fell back. He called the mother who returned to the home and took the child to the hospital.

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 and structured case notes. Interviews were completed with the investigative social worker and supervisor, as well as the social worker from the contracted in-home services provider. SERO attended the Act 33 Review Team meeting held on 8/1/14.

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:

DHS received the referral regarding the child on 7/8/14 and immediately assigned the case to assess the child's safety. A safety assessment was completed and a safety threat was identified. The child would remain hospitalized and the hospital would let DHS know when the child was [REDACTED]. The child then went to Weisman [REDACTED] Hospital in New Jersey on 7/18/14. Mother and father were to be supervised when visiting with the child. Mother was there daily. Father did not visit while the child was [REDACTED]. Child was [REDACTED] Weisman on 8/8/14 to her mother's care. She received [REDACTED]. DHS began [REDACTED] on 8/14/14. The case was closed with DHS on 12/30/14 as the family situation was stabilized.

The social worker interviewed the mother, father, MGM and 2 MAUs in addition to the medical staff and law enforcement. On 8/12/14, the CPS investigation indicated the father as the perpetrator of abuse and unfounded the mother. The police investigation remains ongoing at this time since the father has avoided the police and not made himself available to be interviewed.

Current Case Status:

There are no safety concerns for the child in her mother's care. The mother continues to follow through with all medical appointments for the child. The agency will continue to provide [REDACTED] for one year to the family. The mother has filed for a protection order for herself and the child against the father. The criminal investigation continues.

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

- Strengths: The agency noted the social worker did a thorough investigation and documentation in the case notes, as well as conferencing with her chain of command.
- Deficiencies: None identified.
- Recommendations for Change at the Local Level: None identified.
- Recommendations for Change at the State Level: None identified.

Department Review of County Internal Report:

The Department has received and reviewed the report provided by the county dated October 24, 2014. We are in agreement with the county's findings.

Department of Public Welfare Findings:

- County Strengths: The county provided clear documentation in the case notes and investigation report. All relevant parties were interviewed. The county collaborated with law enforcement and the hospitals throughout the investigation.
- County Weaknesses: The original CY48 submitted to ChildLine noted both mother and father as being Indicated, however, letters dated to the parents on 8/12/14 documented that only the father would receive Indicated status and mother was to receive Unfounded. This was discussed with the county supervisor on 2/24/15 and a corrected CY48 will be submitted to Childline.
- Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance: None identified.

Department of Public Welfare Recommendations:

The county continues with thorough investigations and strong collaboration with all parties involved in the investigations and should strive to enhance all social workers skill levels in this area.