



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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

**Cion Styles**

**Date of Birth:** 12/16/2008  
**Date of Death:** 7/26/2014  
**Date of Oral Report:** 7/30/2014

### **FAMILY NOT KNOWN TO:**

Delaware County Children and Youth Services or Philadelphia Department  
of Human Services

### **REPORT FINALIZED ON:**

01/12/2015

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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)

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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, DHS 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. Delaware County Children and Youth Services (CYS) convened a review team in accordance with Act 33 of 2008 related to this report on 8/26/2014 as the incident occurred in Delaware County. Philadelphia County Department of Human Services (Philadelphia DHS) convened a review team on 10/3/2014 as the family resided [REDACTED].

**Family Constellation:**

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth:</u>
Cion Styles [REDACTED]	Victim Child	12/16/2008
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED]/1987

Other family not in household:  
[REDACTED] Father [REDACTED]/1987

**Notification of Child Fatality:**

ChildLine received the report on 7/30/2014. The Delaware County Times reported the incident on 7/28/2014. On 7/26/2014 at about 11 pm, [REDACTED] shot [REDACTED] and the couple's son, [REDACTED], as they stood outside a relative's home in [REDACTED]. The father was returning Cion from a visit. The mother sustained four gunshot wounds: one in the mouth, one in the abdomen, and two in the buttocks. Cion received gunshot wounds to the head and ankle. Cion was pronounced dead at Crozer-Chester Medical Center on the date of incident. Following a police chase, the father shot himself in the head. On 7/27/2014, he was pronounced dead at University of Pennsylvania Hospital. The mother was taken to Crozer-Chester Medical Center.

**Summary of DHS Child Fatality Review Activities:**

The Southeast Region Office of Children, Youth and Families obtained and reviewed all case records pertaining to the family. The regional office also participated in the Act 33 Review meetings on 8/26/2014 and 10/3/2014. The investigating police officer attended the Act 33 review in Delaware County.

**Children and Youth Involvement Prior to Incident:**

The mother and her child were not known to either Philadelphia DHS or Delaware CYD prior to this incident.

The father's family did not have any history with the Children and Youth Division of DHS, but did have services through the juvenile justice division. There was no [REDACTED] history on file.

**Circumstances of Child Fatality and Related Case Activity:**

The parents resided [REDACTED]. The mother had been visiting at her sister's home on the day of the incident. The father was returning Cion from a visit when an altercation broke out between the mother and father. The mother's family members were all inside, but came outside when they heard the gun shots. Police were called. The father led the police on the chase until he turned into a dead end street. He shot himself in the head.

Cion's death was ruled a homicide. The cause of death was cardiac arrest as a result of the gunshot to the head.

Delaware County contacted Philadelphia DHS [REDACTED] to inquire about any history with this family. Philadelphia DHS did not have prior knowledge of the family but had received [REDACTED]. The report was rejected for investigation by DHS because the incident occurred in Delaware County.

Family accounts indicate that the parents had ended their relationship a couple of weeks prior to this incident. According to [REDACTED] police, the parents had a history of domestic violence. [REDACTED] police records show a record of domestic violence incidents at the family's home; the father was making complaints against the mother. [REDACTED] had filed for an emergency Protection From Abuse order against [REDACTED] in Philadelphia on 7/23/2014. The hearing was scheduled for 7/29/2014.

This report was [REDACTED] on 8/20/2014. The father did have a permit to carry a gun.

**Current Case Status:**

The mother's current whereabouts are unknown. After [REDACTED] the hospital, she has not been available [REDACTED] for interviews. The county's efforts to locate her have been unsuccessful.

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

**Delaware County**

- Strengths:  
All statutory and regulatory requirements were met.
- Deficiencies:  
None identified
- Recommendations for Change at the Local Level:  
None identified
- Recommendations for Change at the State Level:  
None identified

**Philadelphia County**

- Strengths:
  - The Philadelphia Act 33 team identified that the Delaware County staff did a good job of investigating this case.
  - Delaware County convened a timely Act 33 review.
- Deficiencies:
  - Due to communication issues between Philadelphia DHS and Delaware County, Philadelphia DHS did not attend the Act 33 review.
  - The [REDACTED] police track domestic violence calls only by address, not by names. A new database is being developed that will also include the parties' names.
- 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 Delaware County report was received by the Regional Office on 11/12/2014. The Philadelphia County report was received by the Regional Office on 1/5/2015. The Regional Office has reviewed these reports and is in agreement with their findings and recommendations.

**Department of Human Services Findings:**

- County Strengths:
  - Delaware County collaborated well with the police during the criminal investigation.
  - Delaware County held a timely Act 33 review.

- County Weaknesses:
- Delaware County made numerous contacts with the police to locate the mother's address. Their case notes indicate that they did not send the [REDACTED] to the mother because they did not have her address. Perhaps [REDACTED] could have been sent to the mother at one of her family member's addresses, as [REDACTED] and the maternal aunt indicated that she was staying with family temporarily.
- While Delaware County did communicate with a Philadelphia DHS administrator about their investigation and the Act 33 Review, the information was not shared with the appropriate administrator within the Philadelphia DHS agency.
- Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance:  
None identified

**Department of Public Welfare Recommendations:**

The Southeast Regional Office will follow up with each of the six counties in the Southeast Region to ensure that each county has the fatality contacts for the other counties in the region. Initial contact with the counties will also address the counties' need to contact counties where the child had previously resided.