



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

## REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:



**Date of Birth: 2/03/2012**  
**Date of Incident: 3/21/2014**  
**Date of Oral Report: 3/25/2014**

### FAMILY NOT KNOWN TO:

Butler County Children and Youth Services

**REPORT FINALIZED ON:**  
**March 9, 2015**

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, 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. Butler County CYS did not need to convene 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> |
|--------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| ██████████   | Father               | ██████/75             |
| ██████████   | Mother               | ██████/77             |
| ██████████   | Brother              | 5 yrs old             |
| ██████████   | Victim Child         | 2/03/12               |
| * ██████████ | Babysitter           | ██████/81             |

\*indicates that this is not a household member of the victim child's home.

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

On March 25, 2014, Butler County Children and Youth Services (CYS) received a near fatality report ██████████. It was reported that while the two year old victim child was at her babysitters she was able to ingest a corrosive substance resulting in the child receiving burns in her esophagus. The child was transported to Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh and has been admitted to the hospital's ██████████ for further treatment.

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

The Western Region Office of Children, Youth and Families reviewed the case record pertaining to the ██████████ family. The Agency was not required to hold a Multi-Disciplinary Meeting due to the Butler County CYS completing their investigation and submitting the CY-48 prior to the 30<sup>th</sup> day.

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

Butler County CYS had no prior involvement with this family nor did any other county CYS agency in Pennsylvania.

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

The child was brought into Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh (CHP) on March 25, 2014, after the child had ingested a caustic substance; allegedly professional drain cleaner. The child required hospitalization and [REDACTED]. Butler County CYC requested that Allegheny County Office of Children, Youth and Families conduct a 24 hour courtesy safety check and to take photos of the child while hospitalized at Children's Hospital.

The child [REDACTED] to her parents care. She was sent home [REDACTED] due to her esophagus being burnt due to ingesting a corrosive substance. The physicians at Children's Hospital did not have any concerns regarding parent's ability to care for the child. The family requested that Butler County CYC wait until [REDACTED] before they come to the home. The caseworker then scheduled to go to the home on April 1, 2014. At this home visit, the caseworker informed the family that the babysitter was not to be in a caregiver role at this time. At the time of the home visit the caseworker was able to interview and see the children. The father was not home due to being out of town on business.

The babysitter reported that on March 21, 2014, she was babysitting the victim child and her older brother at her mother's home. Around 2:00 p.m., the children were playing. The victim child was playing with the babysitter's dog, Shadow, and her older brother was playing with his Legos. She reported at that time she needed to use the bathroom and had to use the upstairs bathroom, [REDACTED], around 2:10 p.m. While she was in the bathroom, the victim child and the dog followed upstairs and the victim child was slipping things under the door while she was talking to the babysitter. The babysitter told the victim child she would be right out after she washed her hands. When she came out of bathroom, she noticed that the victim child had the "[REDACTED] Super Drain Cleaner" cap in her hand. The babysitter stated that she instantly grabbed child and ran downstairs while yelling for her Mom. She took the victim child to the sink and rinsed her face, mouth, and hands, and then had her drink water. The victim child then vomited on the babysitter and self twice. The babysitter next called Poison Control and did not feel they were helpful and by now she had made the decision to go straight to [REDACTED] at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center [REDACTED] (UPMC), in [REDACTED], Pennsylvania at 2:23 p.m. She called the victim child's mother at 2:29 p.m. and got her voice-mail, and then texted the mother. The victim child's mother called the babysitter back at 2:30 p.m. The babysitter did change her own shirt and child's shirt and left immediately for the hospital with child while other child remained at the home with her Mom. The babysitter met with [REDACTED] at UPMC [REDACTED]. The victim child received basic treatment and due to time of day, child was Life-Flighted to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh (CHP) rather than taken by ambulance which was the initial plan.

The Butler County CYC caseworker had no issues with the condition of the home or the safety of the children. The family stated to the agency that they do not need any services and can meet the

needs of their children including the follow up medical treatment for the victim child. The mother will be taking three months off of work to assist in the medical treatment of her daughter.

Butler County CYS submitted an unfounded CY-48 on April 3, 2014.

**Current Case Status:**

The county agency closed their case on April 3, 2014 when the report was unfounded. The family is able to meet the needs of their children.

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

There was no meeting held, Butler County CYS completed their investigation and filed their CY-48 within 30 days.

**Department Review of County Internal Report:**

No report from Butler County CYS was required given that the status determination from the investigation was determined to be unfounded within 30 days.

**Department of Public Welfare Findings:**

- County Strengths: The County completed a thorough investigation, and assured the safety of both the victim child and her older sibling. They assured that the parents were able to meet the need of their children as well.
- County Weaknesses: None
- Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance: None

**Department of Public Welfare Recommendations:**

The Department has no recommendations in regard to this case given that this incident was thoroughly investigated and collateral contacts were contacted to ensure that everyone was in agreement with the status determination.