



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

**REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:**

[REDACTED]

**Date of Birth: 11/10/2010**  
**Date of Incident: 11/22/2014**  
**Date of Oral Report: 11/22/2014**

**FAMILY KNOWN TO:**

Berks Country Children and Youth Services

**REPORT FINALIZED ON:**

09/01/2015

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, 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. Berks County has convened a review team in accordance with Act 33 of 2008 related to this report. A county review was held on 02/03/15

**Family Constellation:**

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth:</u>
[REDACTED]	Victim Child	11/10/2010
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED] 1993
* [REDACTED]	Father	[REDACTED] 1991
[REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED] 2013
[REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED] 2008
* [REDACTED]	Maternal Grandmother	[REDACTED] 1976
* [REDACTED]	Paternal Grandmother	[REDACTED] 1971
* [REDACTED]	Paternal Aunt	[REDACTED] 1997
* [REDACTED]	Foster mother	[REDACTED] 1976
* [REDACTED]	Foster father	[REDACTED] 1979

\*indicates that this individual was not a household member to the victim child.

**Notification of Child Near Fatality:**

On 11/22/14, a four year old child was taken to the Reading Hospital Medical Center (RHMC) for lacerations to his mouth that did not appear to be new in origin. The victim child also presented with [REDACTED] to the left ear that was severely infected [REDACTED]. After further examinations conducted by the RHMC medical staff, it was further determined that the victim child had marks and bruises from "head to toe", that were in various stages of healing. The victim child was severely anemic and underweight. The victim child was transferred from Reading Hospital to St. Christopher's Hospital on 11/22/14. The child was certified in serious and critical condition on 11/25/14.

### **Summary of DPW Child Near Fatality Review Activities:**

The Southeast Regional Office of Children, Youth and Families obtained and reviewed all current and past case records pertaining to the [REDACTED] family. The regional office also participated in the County Internal Fatality Review Team meeting on 2/3/2015.

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

In February 2011, there was a General Protective Services Report (GPS) regarding domestic violence and the needs of the children not being met. The mother obtained a Protection from Abuse Court Order (PFA) against the father for allegedly allowing the 26 month old daughter to remain in soiled diapers for several hours until she (mother) returned home from work.

On April 30, 2013, there was another GPS report generated because victim child was having problems with constipation. Mother was not keeping her medical appointments for the victim child.

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

The mother admitted to hitting the victim child's head with a belt buckle, biting the victim child, taping his arms and legs, picking at his skin, picking at his ear, and squeezing and twisting his ear. The mother admitted harming the victim child because she hated him. He had serious injuries to his head, face, ear, arms, back, buttocks, legs and heel. The victim child was transferred from Reading Hospital to St. Christopher's Hospital on 11/22/14. The victim child was certified in serious and critical condition on 11/25/14. The victim child [REDACTED] [REDACTED] into the foster home of the [REDACTED], where he still resides. There was a Safety Plan implemented on 11/22/14 requiring the parents to be supervised when visiting the children at all times within line of sight and ear range by paternal grandmother (PGM), maternal grandmother (MGM), and paternal aunt. The children were to live with the PGM and paternal aunt until further notice. Berks County Children and Youth will continue to visit with ongoing monitoring. The Child Protective Services (CPS) Report was determined to be Founded on 1/14/15.

### **Current Case Status:**

Mother admitted to abusing the victim child. She was arrested on November 23, 2014. She was initially charged with Aggravated Assault, Unlawful Restraint/Serious Bodily Injury, Endangering the Welfare of Children. She is now being charged with Attempted Murder, as well. She is being held on \$100,000 bail. She has been incarcerated at [REDACTED] Prison since her arrest.

The victim child's older sibling, [REDACTED] is residing with her maternal grandmother while attending Kindergarten full days [REDACTED]



Mother reported asking maternal grandmother to take custody of (victim child) but maternal grandmother refused.  
Maternal grandmother has a history with BCCYS  
Ongoing tension between siblings (■ & victim child) father and maternal grandmother of ■

**Department Review of County Internal Report:**

The Department concurs with the county report's findings and recommendations.

**Department of Public Welfare Findings:**

- County Strengths: None noted
- County Weaknesses: None noted

No statutory or regulatory compliance issues noted

**Department of Public Welfare Recommendations:**

No recommendations to be made at this time.