



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

REPORT ON THE FATALITY OF:

Deandra Destinvil

Date of Birth: 05/13/2014

Date of Death: 08/20/2014

Date of Oral Report: 08/20/2014

FAMILY NOT KNOWN TO:

Franklin County Children and Youth Services

REPORT FINALIZED ON:

April 17, 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. Franklin County convened a review team on September 16, 2014 in accordance with Act 33 of 2008 related to this report.

Family Constellation:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth:</u>
Deandra Destinvil	Victim Child	05/13/2014
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED] 1992
[REDACTED] *	Father	Unknown
[REDACTED]	Household Member	[REDACTED] 1985
[REDACTED]	Household Member	[REDACTED] 2002
[REDACTED]	Household Member	[REDACTED] 2006
[REDACTED]	Household Member	[REDACTED] 2010
[REDACTED]	Household Member	[REDACTED] 2013
[REDACTED]	Household Member	Age 34
[REDACTED]	Household Member	[REDACTED] 2011
[REDACTED] **	Household Member [REDACTED]	[REDACTED] 1996

* The father resided with various friends in the [REDACTED] area and did not reside in the household.

** Is no longer a household member and is incarcerated at [REDACTED] County Jail, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Notification of Child Fatality:

On 08/20/2014 [REDACTED] contacted Franklin County Children and Youth Services, (FCCYS), and notified them of the death of the victim child, (VC) on this same date. [REDACTED] also informed FCCYS that the death is already ruled a homicide and that the mother and father were not at home at the time of the victim child's death. [REDACTED] stated that there are several other adults in the home and that their information is currently being obtained. [REDACTED] also informed FCCYS that an autopsy on the VC was currently being

performed. FCCYS immediately reported the information to ChildLine and this report was [REDACTED] classified as a Fatality. The alleged perpetrator was initially listed as Unknown.

Summary of DPW Child (Near) Fatality Review Activities:

The Central Region Office of Children, Youth and Families (CROCYF) obtained and reviewed the current case record which is inclusive of medical and police reports, pertaining to this report. Interviews were conducted with FCCYS Supervisor [REDACTED] and Caseworker, [REDACTED]. The CROCYF also participated in the County Act 33 meeting on 09/16/2014.

Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:

FCCYS had no prior involvement with the family or any of the household members. The VC, her mother, and household members who are extended family members had recently moved into [REDACTED], Pennsylvania from Florida. The family was struggling financially and living together in the home.

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

At approximately 8:00 pm on 08/20/2014 [REDACTED] contacted the agency and informed them that an autopsy was performed on 3-month-old Deandra Destinvil, the VC, on the morning of 08/20/2014 at Lehigh Valley Hospital in Allentown. The results of the autopsy indicated that the VC's death was the result of blunt force trauma. The VC was found to have a [REDACTED] along with numerous bruises on various parts of her body. [REDACTED] also informed the agency that their investigation determined that the VC's mother and father were working at the time of the incident and that the VC was in the care of the babysitter/household member, [REDACTED]. At this time [REDACTED] reported to FCCYS that there were no other children in the home and [REDACTED] requested that FCCYS respectfully stay away from the household as they were [REDACTED]. Later in the evening hours of 08/20/2014 [REDACTED] notified FCCYS that they interviewed [REDACTED] on 08/20/2014 and she confessed that while caring for the child, she became frustrated and struck the child's head several times across the face and banged her head off a banister. [REDACTED] was arrested on charges of criminal homicide and was incarcerated in the [REDACTED] County Jail on 08/20/2014. Additionally, [REDACTED] stated that they learned there were five other children residing in the home; however, they reported they had seen all the children and have no safety concerns since [REDACTED] had been arrested and incarcerated. On 08/21/2014, the agency conducted interviews, a home visit, and the In-Home Safety Assessment with all five children and all other household members. At the conclusion of this visit FCCYS also concluded there were no safety concerns. Following FCCYS' [REDACTED] and their collaboration with [REDACTED], FCCYS [REDACTED] this case on 09/17/2014.

Current Case Status:

Following the completion of the In-Home Safety, Assessment FCCYS determined there was no need for ongoing services. FCCYS did provide [REDACTED] to the family regarding the [REDACTED] of the VC. At the conclusion of the investigation the VC's mother and extended family decided to return to Florida and FCCYS also assisted the family [REDACTED]. The perpetrator remains incarcerated in the [REDACTED] County Jail awaiting criminal proceedings.

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

- Strengths:
FCCYS conducted their investigation in collaboration with law enforcement and maintained consistent communication with them. The VC's parents and extended family was very cooperative with FCCYS and law enforcement. The family members supported the VC's mother and safety was assured for the other children in the home.
- Deficiencies:
There were no deficiencies noted.
- Recommendations for Change at the Local Level:
There were no recommendations made.
- Recommendations for Change at the State Level:
There were no recommendations made.

Department Review of County Internal Report:

The County Internal Report was received in the CROCYP on 03/09/2015. The CROCYP met with FCCYS, discussed and reviewed their determinations and attended the Act 33 Fatality Team Meeting on 09/16/2014. The CROCYP concurs with the findings of FCCYS.

Department of Public Welfare Findings:

- County Strengths:
FCCYS conducted a thorough, timely investigation in collaboration with law enforcement. Case documentation was thorough and investigative actions were appropriate meeting the needs of the family. Additional assistance was provided to the mother and father to [REDACTED] return to Florida.
- County Weaknesses:
There were no weaknesses noted.

Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance:

There were no areas of non-compliance noted.

Department of Public Welfare Recommendations:

The investigation completed by FCCYS was conducted timely and in collaboration with the CPD. There were no recommendations noted.