



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

## REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:

[REDACTED]

Date of Birth: 10/25/2001  
Date of Incident: 07/22/2015  
Date of Report to ChildLine: 7/23/2015  
CWIS Referral ID: [REDACTED]

**FAMILY NOT KNOWN TO COUNTY CHILDREN AND YOUTH AGENCY  
AT TIME OF INCIDENT OR WITHIN THE PRECEEDING 16 MONTHS:**

**Philadelphia County Department of Human Services**

**REPORT FINALIZED ON:**  
April 19, 2016

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. Section 6349 (b))



The family did not have prior involvement with the Philadelphia Department of Human Services.

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

On 07/22/2015 the victim child took ten pills around midnight, at 5:00am in the morning the victim woke up and began vomiting and complained of severe abdominal pain. The biological mother did not seek immediate medical attention. Eight hours later the biological mother took the victim child to St Christopher's Hospital for Children. While at the hospital the biological mother was uncooperative by refusing to identify exactly what kind of pills the victim child had taken. Before finding out that the pills were [REDACTED], the biological mother told the story different at least 5 times. The victim child was intoxicated from the pills, [REDACTED]. The victim child was admitted to the hospital in serious but stable condition. The physician certified the victim child to in serious condition based on neglect; as there is a chance of sudden death from the drug. The biological mother was determined to be the perpetrator because she failed to seek medical attention for the victim child in a timely manner, and there is no indication that the victim child would be closely monitored and safe if she remains in the home. [REDACTED]

The 13 year old female victim child was interviewed by the Philadelphia Department of Human Services, (DHS) social worker on 07/24/2015 at the hospital bedside. The victim child denied having suicide ideations at present; however she admitted to feeling lonely and having fleeting thoughts of suicide during the past year. The victim child denied wanting to kill herself, but wanted to stop the feelings of loneliness. [REDACTED]

The victim child stated that she self-administered 10-15 pills that she found in the kitchen of her home, and that she was aware that her biological mother kept medicine in a cabinet above the stove. [REDACTED]

The victim child stated that she told her adult half-brother that she felt dizzy, and that she was not aware that anyone else was at home. The adult brother does not live in the home, but was there at the time of the incident. The adult brother has been in the home for 3 months, he recently moved to [REDACTED] from Puerto Rico, his plans are to get a job so that he can move into his own apartment. He stated that the victim child woke him up around 5:00am complaining that she was feeling sick, and that she was vomiting. The adult half-brother stated that the biological mother was asleep in the home at the time of the incident. According to the half-brother, the biological mother was aware that the victim child was not feeling well, but did not know that the victim child had taken pills. The biological mother left for work at 5:45am. The adult brother stated that they all thought that the victim would get better but instead she got worse. He then called the father around 9:00am and the biological mother returned home 15 minutes after the father on 07/23/2015.

The biological mother stated she was not aware that the victim child was sick until she received a phone call from the adult son while she was at work. The father was not in the home at the time of the incident, he moved out of the home 4 months ago to live with his sister. The biological mother continued to be inconsistent as to when and what actually occurred between 5:00am and 5:45am on the morning of 07/23/2015. The victim child was taken to the hospital in the early afternoon. The biological mother has stated that there is no history of mental health issues in the family.

[REDACTED]

The victim child was placed in kinship care with her paternal aunt and uncle; visitations with the parents are supervised by the paternal aunt and uncle. The investigation was determined to be indicated on 07/29/2015 based on the fact that the biological mother did not seek medical attention for the victim child.

[REDACTED] There was no criminal involvement.

[REDACTED]

The 2 older male siblings are out of the home during the week, one has an infant and spends most his time with the baby and the baby's mother. The other sibling is planning to attend college this fall with the goal to play professional baseball. The victim child presently lives with her paternal aunt and uncle; [REDACTED] Supervised visits are with her biological mother and father.

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

The County presented all required documents to OCYF for completion of full review of the case.

Philadelphia DHS caseworker and supervisor worked effectively and efficiently, coordinated and followed up with essential staff at St. Christopher's Hospital.

**Department Review of County Internal Report:**

The county provided reports to the department in timely manner, all reports reviewed were complete and the content was consistent. Required documents were completed within the correct time line i.e. CY-48, and Safety Assessment. The county social worker made initial contacts with all other involved services, departments, and individuals. The county social worker was available for all questions that required clarity for purposes of the department.

**Department of Human Services Findings:**

County Strengths: The county investigation was complete and conducted in a timely manner.

County Weaknesses: None identified.

**Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance by the County Agency**

There were no regulatory findings.

**Department of Human Services Recommendations:**

The county continues to do an excellent job with investigations and providing required materials to the PA DHS in a timely manner. The county proceeded with this near fatality timely, appropriate services were provided to children and family members. SERO concurs with the Act 33 report findings.