



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

## REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:



**Date of Birth: 05/17/1999**  
**Date of Incident: 10/29/2013**  
**Date of Oral Report: 11/21/2013**

### FAMILY KNOWN TO:

Lycoming County Children and Youth Services

### REPORT FINALIZED ON:

10/06/2014

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. Lycoming County convened a review team in accordance with Act 33 of 2008 related to this report on 12/19/2013.

**Family Constellation:**

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth:</u>
██████████	Victim child	05/17/1999
██████████	Mother	██████████ 1969
██████████*	Father	██████████ 1961
██████████*	Male Sibling	██████████ 1997

\*The child's ██████████ is not a member of the victim child's household. The ██████████ resides at ██████████  
 ██████████  
 \* ██████████ resides with his ██████████ at the ██████████ address.

**Notification of Child Near Fatality:**

On 10/28/2013, the child attempted suicide by taking an overdose ██████████. The child's ██████████ was aware of the ingestion of ██████████ but failed to contact a ██████████ until 10/29/2013 when she was told to take the child to the ██████████. The child did not receive ██████████ until 10/30/2013 when she was taken to the ██████████ by her ██████████. The child was ██████████ to the ██████████, where she underwent a ██████████ on 11/03/2013. On 11/21/2013, ██████████ of ██████████ made a report ██████████ due to the child's ██████████ delay in obtaining ██████████ which resulted in a ██████████ notified Lycoming County Children and Youth Services (CYS) on 11/21/2013 of the Near Death Report ██████████.

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

The Central Region Office of Children, Youth and Families (CROCYF) obtained and reviewed the Lycoming County Children and Youth Services Child Protective Services investigation file, In-Home Services file and two past Intake records pertaining to the ██████████ family. The files

were inclusive of [REDACTED] reports, Family Service Plan, reviews of Family Service Plans, agency safety and risk assessment records and dictation. The CROCYF also attended the Child Near Death Review Team Meeting on 12/19/2013. On 11/21/2013 CROCYF interviewed agency [REDACTED] and obtained initial information regarding the near fatality. On 10/22/2013 agency [REDACTED], stated that the child had been moved to [REDACTED] as she was in [REDACTED]. On 11/03/2013 the agency notified CROCYF that the child had a [REDACTED]. CROCYF also interviewed, [REDACTED], the current Lycoming County Children and Youth [REDACTED] assigned ongoing responsibility for services for the child and her family on 9/18/2014.

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

Lycoming County Children And Youth Services had two prior reports involving the [REDACTED] family. In October, 2008, [REDACTED] staff reported that [REDACTED] was brought in by local police for driving under the influence: [REDACTED] was a passenger in the vehicle at the time. [REDACTED] was charged with DUI and Child Endangerment. An assessment was conducted; the family made necessary arrangements to address the identified concerns and ongoing services were not provided.

In June, 2009, an anonymous caller alleged that [REDACTED] was abusing alcohol while her daughter was in the home. An assessment was conducted and Lycoming County Children And Youth Services was not able to substantiate the complaint.

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

On 10/28/2013 the child attempted suicide by taking an overdose of [REDACTED]. The child's mother acknowledged contacting the primary care physician's office on 10/29/2013, but denied being told to immediately take her daughter to the emergency room for treatment. On 10/31/2013 the child needed assistance getting to the bathroom and had "muddy" urine. The child's mother then transported her to the emergency room where she was diagnosed [REDACTED]. The child was life-flighted to UPMC Children's Hospital where she received [REDACTED] on 11/03/2013. Medical staff at Children's Hospital confirmed that without [REDACTED] the child would have died. UPMC doctors also determined there was no problem with the child's [REDACTED] before she took the approximately 15 [REDACTED] pills.

Following her [REDACTED], the child and her mother remained in Pittsburgh [REDACTED] to monitor [REDACTED] and continue necessary medical follow-up. Later mother and daughter moved into the [REDACTED] located near Children's Hospital. On 12/19/2013 the child [REDACTED] into her mother's care. [REDACTED] felt the mother had a good understanding of the necessary medical follow-up and the child's medical condition was stable. The child will have ongoing follow-up care at Children's Hospital. Following the child's [REDACTED], it was determined that the child's safety could be assured in the mother's home with Lycoming Children and Youth Services involvement and numerous other interventions. [REDACTED]

On 11/21/2013 [REDACTED] reported the Near Death of the child to ChildLine due to the mother's delay in obtaining medical treatment for her daughter which resulted in a serious medical condition. Lycoming County Children and Youth Services determined the mother failed to obtain medical treatment for the child in a timely manner which resulted in the child's [REDACTED] and Indicated the report [REDACTED] on 01/03/14. The Pennsylvania State Police were notified of the ChildLine report on November 21, 2013. Trooper [REDACTED] is the investigating officer.

**Current Case Status:**

[REDACTED] returned to her [REDACTED] home on 12/19/2013. The agency provided [REDACTED] keeping her risk factor as high and visiting the family 3 to 4 times a week. [REDACTED] are being provided by the [REDACTED] has met with family members and friends and has resulted in a support network for [REDACTED] and her mother. [REDACTED] has kept all of her [REDACTED] appointments and her mother has proven to be supportive. [REDACTED] has kept in contact with her father, [REDACTED]. If she cannot stay in her mother's home she will live with her father. [REDACTED] is no longer enrolled in the [REDACTED] School program. She is currently enrolled in the [REDACTED] School District in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

Trooper [REDACTED] filed charges of child endangerment against [REDACTED]. As of 9/22/2014 no hearing has been scheduled. If [REDACTED] should have to be incarcerated, the plan mutually agreed upon is for [REDACTED] to go live with her father.

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

A Child Near Death Review Team Meeting was held on 12/19/2013. The agency conducted this investigation in collaboration with law enforcement.

**Strengths:**

- The Pennsylvania State Police and Lycoming County Children and Youth Services have an ongoing working relationship with a shared goal of assuring safety of children.
- Lycoming County Children and Youth Services worked collaboratively with [REDACTED] in regards to the child's [REDACTED] and evaluating whether or not the child's [REDACTED] was able to care for the child during her [REDACTED] and when the child returned to her [REDACTED] home.
- The agency could not have prevented this near death incident as they were not currently involved with the family on 10/28/2013.

**Deficiencies:**

- The Review Team identified no concerns with the Agency's compliance with statues, regulations, policies and procedures.

- Recommendations for Change at the Local Level:

No recommendations at the time of this report.

- Recommendations for Change at the State Level:  
No recommendations at the time of this report.

**Department Review of County Internal Report:**

The report from Lycoming County Children and Youth Services was received by CROCYP on 12/19/2013. CROCYP was a member of the Near-Fatality Review Team meeting on 12/19/2013.

CROCYP concurred with the recommendations of the Near-Fatality Review Team:

Voluntary CYS services weekly until the risk can be reduced.

Family Group Decision Making to develop supports and further reduce abuse.

Continue [REDACTED] to provide parenting education/support.

[REDACTED] Services for [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] evaluation for [REDACTED].

Request [REDACTED] working with child to [REDACTED].

On February 14, 2014, CROCYP responded found the Near Fatality Team report of 12/19/2013 to be thorough and presented a complete description of the case involvement.

**Department of Public Welfare Findings:**

- County Strengths:  
The investigation was conducted timely and in close collaboration with [REDACTED] and the Pennsylvania State Police. Case documentation was comprehensive including [REDACTED] reports, interviews, risk and safety assessments and case dictation.
- 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:**

Lycoming County Children and Youth Services should continue to conduct thorough and timely investigations in coordination with law enforcement official.