



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

## **REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:**

[REDACTED]

**Date of Birth: 07/05/2009**

**Date of Incident: 10/14/15**

**Date of Report to Child Line: 10/16/2015**

**CWIS Referral ID: [REDACTED]**

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

Lancaster County Children & Youth Services

### **REPORT FINALIZED ON:**

3/17/2016

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))

**Reason for Review:**

Pursuant to the Child Protective Services Law, the Department, through OCYF, must conduct a review and provide a written report of all cases of suspected child abuse that result in a 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.

The Child Protective Services Law also requires that county children and youth agencies convene a review when a report of child abuse involving a fatality or near fatality is substantiated or when a status determination has not been made regarding the report within 30 days of the report to ChildLine.

Lancaster County has convened a review team in accordance with the Child Protective Services Law related to this report. The county review team was convened on 10/28/2015.

**Family Constellation:**

<u>First and Last Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
██████████	Victim Child	07/05/2009
██████████	Mother	██████████ 1981
██████████	Mother's paramour	██████████ 1989

\* Denotes an individual that is not a household member or did not live in the home at the time of the incident, but is relevant to the report.

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

The Central Region Office of Children, Youth and Families obtained and reviewed all current case records pertaining to the ██████████ family. Follow up interviews were conducted with the Caseworker, and the Supervisor on October 19, 2015 and October 28, 2015. The regional office also participated in the County Internal Fatality Review Team meeting on October 28, 2015.

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

The family was not known to Lancaster County Children & Youth Services prior to the incident on October 16, 2015.

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

The child was hospitalized at Ephrata Community hospital on October 16, 2015 due to ██████████ and extensive body and face bruising including pattern injuries that look like slap marks on the buttocks. Child also has her two front teeth knocked out.

[REDACTED] Child has injuries to the ear lobes, neck, buttocks, and near her right arm pit. The child is "out of it" and has scalp swelling on the right side. The child was then transferred to Hershey Medical Center due to [REDACTED] and her extensive injuries.

The mother's paramour states the child ran into a wall. A different doctor asked the child what happened and child said, "my mom said I ran into a wall." The mother's paramour denies hurting the child. The mother is not saying anything. The child has been vomiting and not eating for two days. The doctor has certified the child to be in serious condition. The child is expected to survive.

Lancaster County Children & Youth Services [REDACTED] and placed the child with a maternal uncle and his wife. Mother's paramour cannot have any contact with the child and Mother cannot have any unsupervised contact with the child. There are no other children in the home.

Lancaster County Children and Youth Services substantiated the case on December 13, 2015 indicating Mother's paramour for causing bodily injury to the child and Mother was indicated for serious physical neglect of the child on December 15, 2015.

Mother's case remains open with the Agency [REDACTED] There is an ongoing criminal investigation with the [REDACTED] Police Department.

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

Strengths in compliance with statutes, regulations and services to children and families:

- Child was placed into a kinship home of maternal uncle and aunt.
- Everyone was involved including the Police Department, CYA staff school and the hospital.

Deficiencies in compliance with statutes, regulations and services to children and families:

- None

Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on reducing the likelihood of future child fatalities and near fatalities directly related to abuse:

- None

Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on monitoring and inspection of county agencies:

- None

Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on collaboration of community agencies and service providers to prevent child abuse:

- More counseling /support system needed for mothers who pick men who have an abusive background history

**Department Review of County Internal Report:**

Central Region received the Lancaster County Internal Fatality Review Team report on October 28, 2015. Verbal feedback was provided to the County on October 28, 2015. The Department concurs with the county report's findings and recommendations.

**Department of Human Services Findings:**

County Strengths:

- Lancaster County Children, Youth and Family Services conducted a timely investigation in conjunction with the law enforcement officials.
- The agency provided necessary services to all family members and was able to keep the child safe during the investigation.

County Weaknesses:

- None Noted

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

- None Noted

**Department of Human Services Recommendations:**

None at this time.