



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

[REDACTED]

**Date of Birth: 10/29/2015**  
**Date of Incident: 02/17/2016**  
**Date of Report to ChildLine: 02/18/2016**  
**CWIS Referral ID: [REDACTED]**

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

Union County Children and Youth

### **FAMILY KNOWN TO COUNTY CHILDREN AND YOUTH AGENCY AT TIME OF INCIDENT OR WITHIN THE PRECEDING 16 MONTHS:**

Lycoming County Children and Youth

### **REPORT FINALIZED ON:**

**June 8, 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.

Union County Children and Youth (C&Y) has convened a review team in accordance with the Child Protective Services Law related to this report. Lycoming County Children and Youth also participated in the review team. The county review team was convened on 03/16/2016.

**Family Constellation:**

<u>First and Last Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
[REDACTED]	victim child	10/29/2015
[REDACTED]	biological mother	[REDACTED] 1987
[REDACTED]	half-sister	[REDACTED] 2013
[REDACTED]	half-sister	[REDACTED] 2014
* [REDACTED]	father of victim child	unknown
* [REDACTED]	mother's former paramour	[REDACTED] 1974

\* 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 participated in the Act 33 meeting held on 03/16/2016. Copies of case notes, safety plan with court proceeding to the review the plan, prior criminal history, and medical reports were obtained.

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

The family had no prior involvement with Union County Children and Youth. Lycoming County Children and Youth had a prior Child Protective Services (CPS) report involving the half-sister on 01/26/2016. The child received 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> degree burns on her arm from a kitchen accident. The child reportedly pulled a hot pan from the stove while the mother and the children were visiting the home of the maternal grandfather. The case was unfounded and closed on 03/10/2016.

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

The victim child, her mother and 2 half-sisters reside in Lycoming County. The mother's former paramour resides in Union County. The victim child visited with the former paramour [REDACTED], and he stayed involved in the child's life. On 02/16/2016, the victim child was in the care of the alleged perpetrator (AP), mother's former paramour beginning at 6:30 pm. In the evening of 02/17/2016, the AP called the victim child's mother to report that the victim child was crying and had a lump on her head. The mother instructed the AP to take the victim child to Muncy Valley Hospital where she would meet them. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was transported via Life Flight helicopter to Geisinger Medical Center Danville where she was admitted [REDACTED]

The doctor, who specializes in child abuse, examined the victim child and consulted with the medical team. The victim child's injuries consisted of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The doctor felt that the injuries were inflicted by significant trauma and that the child would not have been able to self-inflict the injuries, and that injuries of this nature in this age group are commonly seen in cases of physical abuse. The doctor agreed with the medical team that this was physical abuse.

The AP was interviewed at the hospital by Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) [REDACTED] and the assigned caseworker from Union C&Y. The AP had no knowledge of what caused the injuries to the child. He denied causing the injuries and stated that the victim child had not had any accidents. He stated that on 02/17/2016, the victim child, the AP and the AP's aunt spent the day shopping in [REDACTED] from 11:30 am until 6 pm. This was confirmed by the AP's aunt who informed investigators that the victim child was healthy and happy while with her.

Another household member of the AP, [REDACTED] who were temporarily staying with the AP, told investigators that the AP and the victim child returned home at 6 pm. At 8:30 pm she reported that the AP and the victim child were alone in his bedroom. She heard the victim child scream and cry and a few minutes later, the AP came out of the bedroom and showed the women that the victim child's head was swollen. The AP then contacted the victim child's mother.

The child [REDACTED] into the care of her mother. The mother obtained a Protection from Abuse order against the AP who had no further contact with the victim child.

On 04/12/2016 the AP was indicated for causing the injuries. On 04/14/2016, the AP was arrested and charged with aggravated assault, simple assault, endangering the welfare of a child and was sent to [REDACTED] prison awaiting his preliminary hearing scheduled for 05/12/2016.

All 3 children are currently living with the mother in Lycoming County and there are no services being provided to the family.

**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;

The county agency investigation complied with regulations and response times as required

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

The county agency report did not reference any deficiencies.

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

The county agency report did not mention any recommendations for change at the state or county level.

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

The county agency report did not mention any recommendations for change at the state or county level.

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

The county agency report did not mention any recommendations for change at the state or county level.

**Department Review of County Internal Report:**

The county report was received on 05/02/2016. There were no issues or concerns regarding the content of the report.

**Department of Human Services Findings:**

- County Strengths:

Upon review of the documents associated with this case, it would appear there is a positive working collaboration between law enforcement, medical facilities and the county agency.

- County Weaknesses:

The circumstances of this case and the review of the county's work did not identify any systemic weaknesses. This family was not known to the agency.

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

There were no areas of non-compliance found during the review of this case.

**Department of Human Services Recommendations:**

The Department concurs with the findings and recommendations of Union County Children and Youth's Act 33 meeting.