



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:

[REDACTED]

Date of Birth: 02/14/2013
Date of Incident: 05/10/2016
Date of Report to ChildLine: 05/10/2016
CWIS Referral ID: [REDACTED]

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

Berks County Children & Youth Services

REPORT FINALIZED ON:
02/01/2017

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.

Berks County has not convened a review team in accordance with the Child Protective Services Law related to this report due to case being unfounded and finalized prior to 30 days.

Family Constellation:

<u>First and Last Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
[REDACTED]	Victim Child	02/14/2013
[REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED] 2008
[REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED] 2015
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED] 1984
* [REDACTED]	Father	[REDACTED] 1981

* 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:

OCYF reviewed all necessary documentation from the record pertaining to the unfortunate situation which was not intentional and determined to be unfounded.

Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:

Berks County Children and Youth Services has not had any prior involvement with this family prior to this current incident.

Circumstances of Child Near Fatality and Related Case Activity:

On 05/10/2016 Berks County received a report [REDACTED] stating that victim child had ingested some drain cleaning tablets which were left open in the

bathroom where she resides. Parents realized what the victim child had done and made her spit out some of the tablets and immediately took her to Reading Hospital Emergency Room. Once the victim child was stabilized she was transferred to Hershey Hospital [REDACTED] The Victim child was certified as being in serious condition but was expected to survive.

Berks County's caseworker conducted a detailed/thorough interview with all parties on 05/10/2016. Victim child's biological mother reported that she was in the kitchen and the victim child was in the living room playing. The landlord was trying to clear a clogged drain in the bathroom whereas he had to leave to go to the Home Depot store but was to return. The mother believes that the landlord may have dropped some of the draining crystals on the floor and the victim child picked them up and put them in her mouth. With conviction, the mother stressed that at no time was landlord alone with the victim child. The victim child called for her mother and the mother immediately noticed the victim child's lips and tongue were swollen. The victim child spit out the rest of crystals in plastic drawer and immediately took the victim child to Reading Hospital Emergency Room.

Biological father reported he was not there when incident occurred.

Sibling reported that when she came home she saw her mother in the kitchen and witnessed the victim child put the blue things in her mouth and the sibling's 14 year old friend, told the victim child to spit them out and the mother came into the living room.

It is clear that the incident which occurred was not intentional and the allegation against both mother and father were unfounded on 06/06/2016.

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;
None Noted
- Deficiencies in compliance with statutes, regulations and services to children and families;
None Noted
- 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 Noted
- Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on monitoring and inspection of county agencies; and
None Noted

- Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on collaboration of community agencies and service providers to prevent child abuse.
None Noted

Department Review of County Internal Report:

Due to this investigation determination being unfounded and submitted before 30 days the county did not have to complete an Act 33 Report.

Department of Human Services Findings:

- County Strengths: Good and timely investigation
- County Weaknesses: None Noted
- Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance by the County Agency.
None Noted

Department of Human Services Recommendations:

None noted at this time.