



REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:

[REDACTED]

Date of Birth: 07/13/2016
Date of Incident: 02/12/2017
Date of Report to ChildLine: 02/12/2017
CWIS Referral ID: [REDACTED]

**FAMILY WAS NOT KNOWN TO COUNTY CHILD WELFARE AT TIME OF
INCIDENT OR WITHIN THE PRECEDING 16 MONTHS:**

Philadelphia County Department of Human Services

REPORT FINALIZED ON:
08/02/2017

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.

Philadelphia County Department of Human Service (DHS) has not convened a review team in accordance with Act 33 of 2008 related to this report. Philadelphia County DHS completed the investigation on 02/27/2017, filing an unfounded determination. The unfounded determination was made within 30 days of the date of report, therefore negating a reason for review.

Family Constellation:

<u>First and Last Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth:</u>
██████████	Victim Child	07/13/2016
██████████	Biological Mother	██████████ 1992
██████████	Biological Father	██████████ 1994
██████████	Sibling-Full	██████████ 2014

Summary of OCYF Child Near Fatality Review Activities:

SERO obtained and reviewed all current and past case records pertaining to the ██████████ family. SERO staff interviewed the Philadelphia DHS, reviewed the Data Collection Tool, CY48 reports, Safety and Risk assessments, nursing notes, and case documentation provided by Philadelphia DHS.

Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:

There is no known information that any members of this family were previously involved with the Philadelphia DHS. The biological father is originally from ██████████ New York and relocated to ██████████ last year when his son was born to live with biological mother and their children.

Circumstances of Child Near Fatality and Related Case Activity:

On 02/12/2017, the child presented to the St. Christopher Hospital Emergency Room ██████████. Before the arrival to the emergency room the biological mother noticed a round soft lump on the child’s right side of the head. Biological Father drove the child, mother and his daughter to the hospital. A Child Protective Service referral ██████████ with the allegation of causing bodily injury

to a child. [REDACTED]

Both parents reported that they do not know how the child [REDACTED] and both parents were named as Alleged Perpetrators. The doctor has certified the child to be in serious or critical condition based on suspected abuse or neglect.

Philadelphia DHS has conducted the investigation in collaboration with the Detective from the Philadelphia Special Victims Unit (SVU). Parents reported a week prior to this incident that the mother laid the child in the middle of a full size bed to change his diaper. She then turned around to get a diaper from a dresser and she heard the child fall onto the floor from the bed. Child was crying when he hit the wooden floor. The mother called the father out of the bathroom to check on the child. The father is an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) professional and immediately he checked his son's breathing, checked his body for any marks bumps or bruises and reported that his son was fine. After his son calmed down the father and mother did not see any marks on his body. The child was not taken to the doctor after his fall off the bed. Both parents report that the child pulls himself up in the crib and when he falls back into the crib, he often hits his head on the rails of the crib. Parents believe this is how the child was injured. Medical staff believes that explanation is consistent with the injury.

During the interview at the hospital on 02/13/2017, the Philadelphia DHS Investigator also observed the child pulling himself up in the crib, taking baby steps while holding on the rails of the crib, then fall back on the mattress of the crib. This occurred several times and each time the child fell back, he fell once on his side, once on his back and several times face forward. Each time the child fell the Philadelphia DHS Investigator witnessed the child laughing at himself. Twice when the child fell, he hit his head on the railings of the crib at the hospital. The child was observed at the hospital and appeared to be happy and did not appear to be in any pain or suffering.

[REDACTED] The child was [REDACTED] his biological parents on 2/13/2017. On 2/13/2017 records were requested from the child's primary physician. [REDACTED]

Philadelphia County DHS filed a decertification process. On 2/28/2017 SERO staff was notified the physician with whom Philadelphia County DHS was communicating the decertification process did not feel comfortable with making the decertification request due to the wording currently being used to define what a near fatality is.

The child's two and half-year-old sibling was seen by the doctor at the St. Christopher Hospital and was cleared to return home with her parents. Parents report the child's sibling is never left alone with the child. The sibling was observed at the hospital and at home by the Philadelphia DHS investigator and Detective. Parents report the sibling is not toilet trained, walks and runs around the house, is

able to climb the stairs and has a lot of energy. The sibling is not enrolled in any day school and stays home with her mother. Mother is a stay home mother.

The father is employed as a certified EMT and currently works for [REDACTED] Ambulance Company in New Jersey full time. The parents have a good relationship between each other. They do experience some arguments, but there is no domestic violence, no mental health issues, no substance abuse concerns and no medical concerns. Parents do not use physical discipline, but instead use verbal redirection and time out methods.

Philadelphia County completed Safety Assessment on 2/12/2017 and on 2/22/2017 and there were no safety threats within the family. The overall risk and severity was low on the Risk Assessment, which was also completed on 2/12/2017 and on 2/21/2017. A Safety Home Visit was conducted on 2/13/2017 with no concerns to the living arraignments.

A closing home visit was conducted on 2/21/2017. The family was not in need of any services. The child's injury was a result of accident and the family has set up provision to prevent any future reoccurrences. The child's crib had soft borders around the crib; the crib was dropped so the child could not climb out of the crib. Child had a follow up appointment [REDACTED]

Philadelphia DHS completed the investigation on 02/27/2017, filing an unfounded determination based on medical evidence and interviews. The child suffered an injury to the right side of his head. The injury was not a result of child abuse or neglect. It is believed that the child fell in his crib and hit his head on the railings of his crib. CPS report was called into DHS as a near fatality; [REDACTED] the child did not suffer any life threatening injuries [REDACTED] Special Victims Unit closed out its investigation on 2/14/2017 based on the interview with biological parents and medical team.

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

Philadelphia DHS completed the ChildLine investigation within the 30 days of the date of the oral report with a status finding of "Unfounded", therefore they were not required to complete ACT 33 meeting nor a near fatality report.

- Strengths in compliance with statutes, regulations and services to children and families;
 - There was no county report
- Deficiencies in compliance with statutes, regulations and services to children and families;
 - There was no county report
- Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on reducing the likelihood of future child fatalities and near fatalities directly related to abuse;

- There was no county report
- Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on monitoring and inspection of county agencies; and
 - There was no county report
- Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on collaboration of community agencies and service providers to prevent child abuse.
 - There was no county report

Department Review of County Internal Report:

SERO received the Philadelphia County Child Fatality Team findings of the investigation on 02/28/2017. Philadelphia DHS did not need to write an internal report, as there was no Act 33 meeting. The investigation was consistent with all interview statements. The interviews content and findings are representative of what was discussed during the interviews.

Department of Human Services Findings:

County Strengths:

- Philadelphia County DHS responded to referral received in a timely manner and conducted thorough assessments.
- Philadelphia County DHS worked in tandem with law enforcement in investigating the 02/12/2017 incident.
- Family engagement was evident throughout the involvement with this family.

County Weaknesses:

- None

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

- None

Department of Human Services Recommendations:

DHS has no recommendations to practice as a result of the findings in this review.