



REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:

[REDACTED]

Date of Birth: 12/18/2015
Date of Incident: 02/05/2017
Date of Report to ChildLine: 02/05/2017
CWIS Referral ID: [REDACTED]

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

Allegheny County

REPORT FINALIZED ON:
09/01/2017

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.

Allegheny County Office of Children, Youth and Families (ACOCYF) has not convened a review team in accordance with the Child Protective Services Law related to this report. The county unfounded the report of suspected child abuse within 30 days of receiving the report.

Family Constellation:

<u>First and Last Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
[REDACTED]	Victim Child	12/18/2015
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED] 1995
[REDACTED]	Father	[REDACTED] 1981
* [REDACTED]	Maternal Grandmother	unknown
* [REDACTED]	Maternal Uncle	[REDACTED] 1986

*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 Western Region Office of Children, Youth and Families (WRO) reviewed all of current case record pertaining to the family. Allegheny County Office of Children, Youth and Families (ACOCYF) did not convene an Act 33 meeting due to the report being unfounded within the 30 days. The WRO also reviewed all information in Child Welfare Information System database.

Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:

The family was not known to ACOCYF prior to this incident.

Circumstances of Child Near Fatality and Related Case Activity:

On 02/05/2017, ACOCYF received a report of a near fatality on the victim child. The victim child arrived at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh (CHP) due to falling down the stairs. [REDACTED]

██ These injuries were highly concerning for physical abuse pending further evaluation. The injuries would have caused the victim child substantial pain and impairment of function. The victim child was in serious critical condition as a result of abuse/neglect. The victim child was admitted to the hospital.

ACOCYF immediately responded to the hospital and interviewed all parties that were in the home at the time of the incident. The incident occurred at the father's home. The father stated that he and the mother were discussing paying for pizza while mother was on the phone ordering it. Out of the corner of his eye he observed the victim child fall over the edge of the steps and land face first on the floor. He then ran over to the child and slowly picked her up. He stated that it was the scariest thing he ever saw. The child fell about 32-40 feet from the ground. The father did provide pictures to the caseworkers to show the height of the stairs. The father just recently moved into the home and was still trying to get his things settled. They decided not to call an ambulance due to them being able to self-transport to the hospital.

Mother had a similar account of the incident but did not see the victim child fall. She did see the father pick the victim child up off of the floor. Prior to the incident the victim child recently awoke from a nap and was wondering around the house while drinking her bottle. Mother and maternal grandmother transported the victim child to the hospital. While in route, the victim child became groggy and they stopped at the local Emergency Medical Service (EMS) department and allowed them to finish the transportation to the hospital.

While in the hospital, the victim child was seen by ██████████ doctors. They believed the story provided by the parents was plausible and consistent with the injuries the victim child received. The victim child was hospitalized for observational purposes to ensure that the swelling went down. ██████████ The victim child ██████████ two days later to her parents.

ACOCYF completed home visits on both the mother's and father's home. The victim child predominately resides with her mother and visits with her father. The father did complete the modifications on the stairs to prevent further incidents on the stairs. Father did have the gates placed in their appropriate places. Mother's home was free and clear from any safety hazards.

ACOCYF submitted the Child Protective Service Investigation report with a status of "Unfounded" on 03/06/2017. The agency closed their case on that date.

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

The agency was not required to submit a report due to the report being unfounded within 30 days of the date of the oral report.

- Strengths in compliance with statutes, regulations and services to children and families
 - None
- 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
 - None

Department Review of County Internal Report:

The agency was not required to submit a report due to the report being unfounded within 30 days of the date of the oral report.

Department of Human Services Findings:

- County Strengths:
 - ACOCYF immediately responded to the hospital to see the victim child and interview the parents.
 - ACOCYF did collaborate with the local police department.
 - ACOCYF assisted the family with child gates to help keep the victim child safe in the home.
- County Weaknesses:
 - No weaknesses were identified
- Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance by the County Agency.
 - There were no areas of noncompliance.

Department of Human Services Recommendations:

There are no recommendations.