



**REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:**

[REDACTED]

**Date of Birth:** 09/26/2015  
**Date of Incident:** 05/24/2017  
**Date of Report to ChildLine:** 05/24/2017  
**CWIS Referral ID:** [REDACTED]

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

Philadelphia Department of Human Services

**REPORT FINALIZED ON:  
11/15/2017**

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 has convened a review team in accordance with the Child Protective Services Law related to this report. The county review team was convened on 06/16/2017, and the review team determined that there was abuse and therefore, the report was "Indicated" within 53 days of receipt of the investigation.

**Family Constellation:**

<u>First and Last Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
[REDACTED]	Victim Child	09/26/2015
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED] 1985
[REDACTED] *	Father	[REDACTED] 1990
[REDACTED] *	Brother	[REDACTED] 2003

\* Did not live in the home at the time of the incident. Victim child’s brother resides in the care of his bio-father in New Jersey (for whom the mother refuses to provide an address).

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

The Southeastern Region Office of Children, Youth and Families (SERO) obtained and reviewed all current case records pertaining to the [REDACTED] family, including the initial referral, all medical records, and safety assessment and supporting documentation.

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

The family was previously known to Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS):

- 03/04/2004 – General Protective Services (GPS) report for [REDACTED]
- 05/03/2005– GPS report alleging mother was observed physically harming and inappropriately disciplining her son in public; report was determined to be invalid.
- 10/23/2012 – GPS notification came from the New Jersey Department of Children and Families (NJ DCF) who was investigating the case since

05/27/2012. The agency requested that Philadelphia DHS do a courtesy home visit to assess for safety, since they were not able to locate the family. It was reported that the mother and her son returned to Philadelphia. The allegations were neglect (inadequate food, supervision), and physical abuse (substantial risk of physical injury/environment injurious to health and welfare), domestic violence, and the selling of illegal substances out of the home. Philadelphia DHS was unable to assess the family because it was reported the mother and her child moved back to NJ.

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

Philadelphia DHS received a Child Protective Services (CPS) report on 05/24/2017, alleging that the 20 month old child suffered second and third-degree burns on her feet, and a first-degree burn to her groin area – while in the care of her babysitter. The burns that the child received on her feet were described as a clear ring around the ankles and there were no splash marks on the child. It was also reported that the child had a black left eye, a mark extending from her chest area to her right shoulder, which appears to be made by a belt or cord, and a belt mark on her left inner thigh. The babysitter reported that while walking the child, she got into an altercation with an unknown little boy who threw a bucket of hot water on the child. It is not clear if the child’s mother was present at the time of the incident. The child was initially treated at Chestnut Hill Hospital for her injuries and later transferred to St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children (SCHC). [REDACTED]

On 05/25/2017, Philadelphia DHS received a supplemental report from several sources. The supplemental report restated the child’s injuries. It was also reported that the child’s mother arrived at SCHC and she was being interviewed by the [REDACTED] Police Department [REDACTED]. The babysitter was arrested and charged with crimes related to the child’s injuries. Additionally, a GPS report was generated for the babysitter’s biological child to assess for safety. The babysitter’s child was examined by the medical staff at SCHC and had no injuries.

On 05/25/2017, the Multi-Disciplinary Social Work Services Manager (MDT SWSM) was assigned to the investigation. The child’s mother reported that she left the child in the care of the babysitter for approximately two hours [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The mother stated that she has known the babysitter for fifteen years and that she is the niece of one of her friends. The mother denies using physical discipline with the child. Initially, the mother was hesitant to sign releases of information or provide a statement to the MDT SWSM until she was allowed to see her child. The MDT SWSM informed the mother that due to the child’s unexplained injuries, no one was allowed to have unsupervised visits with the child. The MDT SWSM and his colleagues arranged a supervised schedule for the mother and other family members to visit with the child while she was hospitalized. The MDT SWSM attempted to question the mother regarding the child’s biological father and other family members. However, the mother did not want to provide any information. The mother does have another child, age 14, whom she states is in the

care of his father in New Jersey. The mother did not want to provide any additional information pertaining to her son.

The MDT SWSM obtained information from the child's paternal grandmother (PGM) and her paternal great aunt (PGAU), who stated they last cared for the child on 05/23/2017. The PGAU reported that she allowed the mother and child to reside with her in [REDACTED], NJ from February 2017 to the end of April 2017, until the mother unexpectedly left her home. The PGM & PGAU both had concerns about the mother's capacity to parent the child. The PGAU stated that the mother prioritized her friends and her lifestyle over the needs of the child. However, both the PGM and PGAU did not observe any injuries to the child when she was in their care.

The babysitter was arrested on 05/25/2017 and charged with aggravated assault, simple assault, endangering the welfare of children, and recklessly endangering the welfare of another person. The babysitter is currently detained at the [REDACTED] Correctional facility and is scheduled for a pre-trial hearing on 09/19/2017. The MDT SWSM interviewed the babysitter to gather further information regarding the incident. The babysitter reported that on the day of the incident, the child arrived at her home with a black eye. The babysitter stated that she provided care for the child overnight. She reported that she bathed the child the next morning. The babysitter stated that she placed the child in the bathtub and left her unsupervised for approximately fifteen minutes while she went downstairs. The babysitter stated that she heard the child screaming and went back upstairs and took the child out of the tub. This is when she saw the child's skin bubbling and peeling off of her. The babysitter stated that she called the child's mother to come home. The babysitter also stated that she created the story about another child throwing hot water on the child because she was scared when she called the mother.

On 07/17/2017, the CPS outcome was determined as "indicated." The babysitter remains incarcerated and is awaiting trial.

Currently, the family is receiving case management services through Turning Points for Children Community Umbrella Agency (CUA) 9. The child is placed in a medical foster home [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] It is reported that the child is also up-to-date with her well-being appointments, is developmentally on target, and is positively progressing. The child's older brother continues to reside in New Jersey with his father.

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

- The MDT SWSM did a good job with the investigation.
- The mother did not provide Philadelphia DHS with a current address for her eldest child and his father. The eldest child's safety could not be assessed during the course of the investigation. Philadelphia DHS will request that NJ DCF do a courtesy home visit to an old address obtained in the October 2012 assessment.

- At the time of the report, the family did not have an open case or services with Philadelphia DHS. Subsequently, on 06/14/2017, Turning Points for Children CUA-9 assumed case management services for the family. On 06/26/2017, [REDACTED] The child was placed in a medical foster care home [REDACTED]
- The mother will be referred for [REDACTED] evaluation. She will also be referred [REDACTED] for housing, employment, and parenting services.

**Department Review of County Internal Report:**

The agency did complete an internal report as there was a scheduled review team meeting. PA DHS concurs with the county agency’s report.

**Department of Human Services Findings:**

County Strengths:

- Philadelphia DHS immediately contacted CHOP to gather additional information on the child’s condition.
- Philadelphia DHS immediately contacted law enforcement to report suspected child abuse.
- Philadelphia DHS maintained consistent phone collateral calls and face-to-face visits with CHOP’s medical personnel and ongoing physician.
- Philadelphia DHS’ collaboration with law enforcement during the investigation was consistent.
- Philadelphia DHS obtained and reviewed the child’s medical records.
- Philadelphia DHS generated a GPS report to assess the babysitter’s biological child for safety in a prompt manner.
- Philadelphia DHS identified additional paternal family members who can possibly be a kinship referral source for the child.
- Philadelphia DHS made a determination within 53 days of the date of the report and appeared to take all information obtained during the investigation into consideration when making the decision to “Indicate” the report.
- Philadelphia DHS is working with partners such as NJ DCF, [REDACTED]

County Weaknesses:

- Philadelphia DHS has not explored whether the mother has a history of domestic violence.

**Department of Human Services Recommendations:**

Prior reports note that the mother has some mental health (MH), domestic violence (DV), and substance abuse issues. Philadelphia DHS has recommended that the mother be referred to [REDACTED] for an evaluation and receive a [REDACTED] evaluation [REDACTED] PA DHS recommends that the mother also receive further assessment to find out if there are any DV concerns.