



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

**Baby Boy Wilson**

**Date of Birth: Unknown**  
**Date of Death: On or About 10/15/2017**  
**Date of Report to ChildLine: 10/25/2017**  
**CWIS Referral ID: [REDACTED]**

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

Lehigh County Office of Children & Youth Services

**REPORT FINALIZED ON:**  
4/11/2018

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.

Lehigh 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 - 11/02/2017.

**Family Constellation:**

First and Last Name:

Baby Boy Wilson

[REDACTED]

Relationship:

Victim Child  
Mother  
Father  
Sibling  
Sibling  
Sibling  
Sibling  
Sibling

Date of Birth

Unknown  
[REDACTED]/1989  
[REDACTED]/1988  
[REDACTED]/2007  
[REDACTED]/2011  
[REDACTED]/2013  
[REDACTED]/2015  
[REDACTED]/2016

**Summary of OCYF Child Fatality Review Activities:**

The Northeast Regional Office of Children Youth and Families (NERO) received and reviewed records of the [REDACTED] Investigation. NERO staff had a discussion with the investigating caseworker and her supervisor. NERO staff participated in the Act 33 meeting on 11/02/2017. The meeting included a review of the agency file, medical records and a discussion related to the incident including reports from law enforcement.

**Summary of circumstances prior to Incident:**

The Lehigh County Office of Children Youth Services (LCOCYS) had no prior involvement with the family.

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

The report was received by LCOCYS on 10/25/2017 as a [REDACTED] and reevaluated to a CPS by the LCOCYS caseworker as it was suspected the victim child had been born alive and that the [REDACTED] caused the victim child's death.

The father had taken the [REDACTED] to a local hospital on 10/20/2017 as she began to [REDACTED]. The mother had [REDACTED] inside of her. The mother [REDACTED] from the hospital on Tuesday 10/24/2017. The father did not believe the [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] as she had denied that she was. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The father had no issue with the search, and continued to support the [REDACTED], as he really believed the police would not find anything. Within a few minutes the police came up from the basement and reported they had found what they were looking for. The father reported the police took something from the home. As per the father, the [REDACTED] remained stone faced showing no emotion. The father reported that the [REDACTED] later told him that the victim child had been [REDACTED]. The [REDACTED] told the father she panicked as she had not told him about the [REDACTED] and was not sure how he would react.

The victim child was 9 pounds and approximately [REDACTED]. The victim child was found in a bag in a sealed paint bucket in the basement. Medical staff reported they believe the victim child could have been born up to two to three days prior to the [REDACTED] on 10/20/2017. The father reported he was suspicious that the mother was in fact pregnant as she had been gaining weight. The father reports the mother denied being pregnant and produced negative pregnancy test both in June and in August, 2017. [REDACTED]

The mother also [REDACTED] in August, 2017. The father reported he and the mother had been together for 14 years and prenatal care had been obtained for all of their previous pregnancies. The father reported the mother did keep her pregnancy with the 13 month old sibling a secret from her family until a few days before she delivered.

LCOCYS case worker saw all of the siblings on 10/25/2017. The siblings appeared to be well cared for. All of the siblings were up to date on their medical well-visits and the school aged siblings were attending school. The siblings remained with the father at the home of the paternal grandmother. The mother was residing with the maternal grandmother. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The father reported he had past criminal charges which included drug and gun possession charges. The father had spent time in the [REDACTED] County Prison in 2012. There were no criminal charges within the past five years.

An interview was conducted with the [REDACTED] and she also reported that she suspected the mother was pregnant. [REDACTED] reported that she was not aware of any difficulties in [REDACTED] life. [REDACTED] reported the mother told her the baby was born dead and she didn't know how the father would react if he found out.

[REDACTED] The caseworker did meet with the mother on 11/02/2017 and had a discussion surrounding the siblings and her relationship with the father. The mother denied there was any history of domestic violence between her and the father and stated that the father was very involved with the children. Forensic interviews were conducted with the 10 year old and 5 year old siblings on 11/30/2017. Neither child reported any concerns in the home with their parents. [REDACTED]

A subsequent interview took place on 12/08/2017 and at that time the mother stated there was emotional, verbal, and physical abuse from the father to her. The mother stated the siblings never witnessed any of the abuse. The mother also stated the father was unfaithful to her. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The mother reports missing her children and that she does not have any mental health issues. The mother reported she felt the police think she is a monster but they don't know her. The mother did not acknowledge how horrible her actions were. She did not admit or deny anything with her newborn but she continued to minimize the situation.

The law enforcement investigation is ongoing. Pennsylvania State Police advised LCOCYS that an autopsy was completed on 10/25/2017, immediately following the discovery of the infant on this date. Results of the autopsy continue to be pending although no trauma was discovered, no determination as to whether the infant took a breath prior to death. Toxicology reports are pending, DNA test were completed.

The family has been receiving services through an in-home parenting program. LCOCYS recommended [REDACTED] for the children however the father refused to engage them in services.

An [REDACTED] status was determined on 12/21/2017 due to lack of evidence including no conclusive autopsy results to date. LCOCYS remains involved with the family and the in-home parenting services continue. [REDACTED]

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

Information in this section is copied directly from the county report.

- Strengths in compliance with statutes, regulations and services to children and families;
- LCOCYS decision to re-evaluate the referral from [REDACTED] was a good one.
- Kin have assisted the father in keeping the siblings safe during the investigation.
- Deficiencies in compliance with statutes, regulations and services to children and families;
- No deficiencies identified.
- Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on reducing the likelihood of future child fatalities and near fatalities directly related to abuse;
- No recommendations made.
- Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on monitoring and inspection of county agencies; and
- No recommendations made.
- Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on collaboration of community agencies and service providers to prevent child abuse.
- The mother and father should undergo mental health evaluations.
- LCOCYS ACT 33 Team reiterated the need for post-partum depression screenings by medical providers at infant's well visits. The children in this case are all up to date in well care at a local provider.

**Department Review of County Internal Report:**

LCOCYS submitted the County Review Team Report to NERO on 03/21/2018. NERO determined that the county internal report accurately reflected background case history and the status of the CPS investigation.

**Department of Human Services Findings:**

- County Strengths:

LCOCYS conducted a timely [REDACTED] investigation. An appropriate and proactive decision was made to have the referral re-evaluated [REDACTED]. LCOCYS followed all established protocols for referral to law enforcement.

- County Weaknesses:

LCOCYS made the decision to [REDACTED] the investigation as opposed to [REDACTED] the outcome based on the criminal investigation. If it is determined [REDACTED] did in fact cause the victim child's death it may be difficult to establish grounds to have this case renumbered.

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

None

**Department of Human Services Recommendations:**

The Department recommends education for medical providers on the importance of post-partum depression screenings.

Community education to increase awareness of Safe Haven. The Department agrees with the ACT 33 Team that a request be made to the local District Attorney to include information as part of a press release to increase community awareness of the existence and purpose of Safe Haven.