



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

**OFFICE OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES**

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**REPORT ON THE DEATH OF**

**TIA CRAWLEY**

**BORN: July 6, 1993**  
**Date of Death Incident: April 7, 2009**

**The family was not known to Children and Youth  
Services.  
The family was not known to other public/private social  
service agencies**

**REPORT FINALIZED 02/03/10**

This report is confidential under the provisions of the Child Protective Services Law and cannot be released.  
(23 Pa. C.S. Section 6340)

Unauthorized release is prohibited under penalty of law.  
(23 Pa. C.S. 6349 (b))

**Reason for Review:**

Senate Bill No. 1147, now known as Act 33 was signed by Governor Rendell on July 3, 2008 and went into effect 180 days from that date, December 30, 2008. This Act amends the Child Protective Services Law (CPSL) and sets standards for reviewing and reporting child fatality and near child fatalities that were suspected to have occurred due to child abuse. DPW must conduct child fatality and near fatality reviews and provide a written report on any child fatality or near fatality where child abuse is suspected.

**Circumstances of Child's Fatality:**

Tia (age 15) and [REDACTED] were murdered in their family home by [REDACTED], mother's former boyfriend. [REDACTED] used [REDACTED] handgun after mother ended the relationship the previous day. [REDACTED] shot Tia as he fled the home, reportedly because she was a witness to the murder. Tia's 14- year old sister, [REDACTED], was not present at the time of the murders, and she discovered her sister's body upon entering the home after school. [REDACTED] was later apprehended at the girls' mother's place of employment and stated to law enforcement that he went into a rage because he suspected mother of having affairs. He is currently in the Allegheny County Jail, charged with homicide and firearms violations.

[REDACTED] and law enforcement confirmed that mother reported domestic violence on the day prior to the murders. [REDACTED] also reported that [REDACTED] threatened her mother with gun violence in the past. [REDACTED] made allegations after the deaths that [REDACTED] her and Tia; however, Allegheny County CYF [REDACTED] and determined that the report was [REDACTED].

**Summary of Review****1. Family Constellation:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
Crawley, Tia	Child (Deceased)	07/06/1993
[REDACTED]	Mother [(Deceased)]	[REDACTED] 1966
[REDACTED]	Father	[REDACTED] 1961
[REDACTED]	Mother's Paramour	[REDACTED] 1978
[REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED] 1995

**2. Documents Reviewed and Individuals Interviewed:**

The OCYF Program Representative reviewed the 2009 case file provided by Allegheny County CYF for the [REDACTED] on this family. The file included the investigation summary, demographic information, risk/safety assessment and safety plan, and progress notes.

### **Case Chronology**

Prior to Tia Crawley's death on April 9, 2009, the family was not known to Allegheny County CYF.

### **Previous CY involvement**

There was no previous Allegheny County CYF involvement with mother and the girls prior to the fatalities. There was a closed Allegheny County CYF record involving mother and her now adult daughter (parent- child conflict) and an out-of-state child welfare closed record on the son of [REDACTED] father, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] alleged domestic violence by [REDACTED] in 2002, which he denied, and charges were later dropped. [REDACTED] divorced in 2007, and the girls resided between father and mother's residences.

### **County Recommendations for changes at the Local (County or State) Levels as identified by way of County's Near Fatality Report:**

- 1) Comprehensive domestic violence training for all law enforcement agencies by the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office and Women's Center and Shelter, regarding:
  - Awareness of risk factors based on the Danger Assessment (*Jacqueline C. Campbell, 2001*) which identifies risk factors associated with homicides of both batterers and battered women in research conducted after the murders have taken place;
  - Safety planning for battered persons and their children;
  - Routine and emergency referrals to community counseling and safety resources (referrals and emergency consultation), such as Women's Center and Shelter, Victims of Violence and Crimes for battered persons and their children; and,
  - Procedures for obtaining Protection from Abuse orders.
  
- 2) Review and distribution of Danger Assessment instrument to all Allegheny County CYF staff which identifies risk factors associated with homicides of both batterers and battered women.

### **Findings and Recommendations**

The surviving child, [REDACTED] is living with her father. When the Allegheny County caseworker met with [REDACTED], she disclosed that she had been [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] repeated these allegations at a [REDACTED] on April 28, 2009. A referral had been made for [REDACTED] to The Center for Victims of Violent Crimes and she continues to receive [REDACTED]. The Office of Children, Youth and Families does not have any recommendations surrounding this child death. The family was not known to the child welfare agency, nor were they known to other public/private social service agencies at the time of the child's tragic death.

