



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

OFFICE OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

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REPORT ON THE Near Fatality OF:

██████████

BORN: ██████ 2009

Date of Near Fatality Incident: 8/28/2010

FAMILY NOT KNOWN TO:
Any Public or Private Child Welfare Agency

REPORT FINALIZED ON:

04/10/2012

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 1147, Printer's Number 2159 was signed into law on July 3, 2008 by Governor Edward G. Rendell. The bill became effective on December 30, 2008 and is known as Act 33 of 2008. As part of Act 33 of 2008, DPW must conduct a review and provide a written report of all cases of suspected child abuse that result in a child 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.

Act 33 of 2008 also requires that county children and youth agencies convene a review when a report of child abuse involving a child fatality or near fatality is indicated or when a status determination has not been made regarding the report within 30 days of the oral report to ChildLine.

Family Constellation:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth:</u>
██████████	Victim child	██████████/2009
██████████	Brother	██████████1996
██████████	Brother	██████████/10
██████████	Mother	██████████/1973
██████████	Father	██████████/9163

Notification of Child Near Fatality:

On 08/29/2010, Montgomery County received a call from ██████████ concerning a two year old victim child. The victim child was transferred from Grandview Hospital and admitted to the ██████████ at Lehigh Valley Hospital on 08/28/2010. He presented at Grandview Hospital with 2.5 % ██████████ ██████████ burns to his face, mouth and bilateral upper extremities (both anterior forearms). Child was ██████████.

The hospital reports that the mother's story is inconsistent with the injuries. The mother reported that she was cooking French fries in the toaster oven. The child grabbed the oven and pulled it down on himself. The burns on his mouth, cheeks and forearms are bar shaped. The mother only speaks Vietnamese; the father speaks Vietnamese with some broken English. The mother was pregnant at this time, and it was reported that there were ██████████

Hospital staff noted a "strange" interaction between the mother and father, which they stated could be interpreted as abusive. The father is on work release from prison (DUI offense). He works during the week and returns to prison on weekends. Dr. ██████████ certified the child in ██████████. Victim child

was expected to live; he was [REDACTED] 8/30/2011. The report was [REDACTED] for lack of supervision resulting in a physical condition.

Summary of DPW Child Near Fatality Review Activities:

The Southeast Region Office of Children, Youth and Families obtained and reviewed all current case records pertaining to the family. Follow up interviews were conducted with the Montgomery County Fatality contact.

Summary of Services to Family:

Family was not previously known to any public or private child welfare agency.

Circumstances of Child Near Fatality and Related Case Activity:

- Interviews with family members were conducted through a Vietnamese interpreter. The interpreter assisted both the police and [REDACTED] worker with their investigation.
- The [REDACTED] determined that the victim child's 14 year old brother was cooking food in the toaster oven. The victim child reached for the oven, and pulled it onto himself. The "bar-shaped burns were from the sides, top and bottom of the oven.
- Both the police and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] this to be an accident.
- The mother's reported inconsistencies were clarified during the interviews with the interpreter.
- This case was [REDACTED] on 9/21/2010.

Current Case Status:

- The victim child has recovered from his injuries. He had two follow up doctor appointments and was [REDACTED]
- The victim child was evaluated with Ages and Stages. He was referred for an assessment due to the language barrier. An Internet teacher was recommended for him. The Intermediate Unit is in process of setting this up.
- The baby was also referred for evaluation. The baby was born healthy with no medical concerns.

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

Act 33 of 2008 also requires that county Children and Youth Agencies convene a review when a report of child abuse involving a child fatality or near fatality is indicated or when a status determination has not been made regarding the report within 30 days of the oral report to ChildLine. Montgomery County has not convened a review team as the case was [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Department of Public Welfare Findings:**County Strengths:**

- [REDACTED] worker utilized interpreter services to communicate effectively with family.

County Weaknesses:

- None identified

Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance:

The county was in compliance with statutes and regulations.

Department of Public Welfare Recommendations:

The Department recommends that hospitals have training to address cultural sensitivity to assist in communicating and assessing with families from diverse backgrounds.