



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

OFFICE OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

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REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF



Date of Birth: January 5, 2012
Date of Near Fatality Incident: February 8, 2012

FAMILY WAS NOT KNOWN TO:
Northampton County Department of Human Services,
Children, Youth and Families Division

Date of Oral Report: 02/09/12
Date Report Finalized: 11/01/12

Reason for Review

Senate Bill No. 1147, now known as Act 33 was signed 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 child near-fatality as a result of suspected child abuse. DPW must conduct child fatality and near fatality review and provide a written report on any child fatality or near fatality where child abuse is suspected.¹

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. Northampton County Department of Human Services, Children, Youth, and Families Division has not convened a review team in accordance with Act 33 of 2008 related to this report. The agency has determined that the incident that occurred was not due to child abuse and the investigation concluded within 30 days.

Family Constellation:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
[REDACTED]	Victim Child	[REDACTED] 12
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED] 81
[REDACTED]	Father	[REDACTED] 79
[REDACTED]	Sibling (twin)	[REDACTED] 12
[REDACTED]	Paternal Grandmother	[REDACTED] 46

Notification of Fatality/Near Fatality

On February 9, 2012 Northampton County Children, Youth, & Families received a call [REDACTED] concerning the victim child. The victim child was taken to [REDACTED] Hospital on February 9, 2012, by his parents due to the victim child falling out of his car seat after his 11:00 PM feeding on February 8, 2012.

Summary of DPW Child (Near) Fatality Review Activities:

[REDACTED] was conducted by the county agency. The NERO investigation consisted of a review of the [REDACTED] file and interviews with Northampton County Department of Human Services, Children and Youth Division staff.

Summary of Services to the Family

Children and Youth involvement prior to Incident: The family was not known to the agency prior to this incident.

Circumstances of child's near fatality and related case activity: On February 9, 2012 Northampton County Children, Youth, & Families received a call [REDACTED] concerning the victim child. The victim child was taken to the [REDACTED]

¹ 23 Pa, C,S, § 6343(c)1,2.

Hospital on February 9, 2012, by his parents due to the victim child falling out of his car seat after his 11:00 PM feeding on February 8, 2012. The victim child [REDACTED]

On February 9, 2012, after receiving report [REDACTED], a Northampton County CYF caseworker went to the [REDACTED] Hospital, Cedar Crest [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. The caseworker interviewed the victim child's parents. The victim child's parents reported that the victim child was fed around 11PM and was placed in his car seat on the dining room table. The victim child was [REDACTED] positioned forward in his car seat with a blanket. The mother was in another room pumping breast milk and the father was changing [REDACTED] the victim child's twin sibling's diaper about 20 inches from the dining room table when they both heard a loud crashing sound. When the parents turned to see what it was they found the victim child on the floor and his car seat tipped backwards. The victim child cried spontaneously. The victim child's parents used their personal vehicle to transport him to the [REDACTED] Hospital. Once the victim child was examined [REDACTED]

On February 9, 2012 the victim child's sibling was examined [REDACTED]. No issues or concerns were reported at that time.

On February 10, 2012 the victim child [REDACTED] the hospital to his parents after [REDACTED]. The parents' explanation was consistent with the child's injuries. [REDACTED]

On February 13, 2012 the victim child and his sibling were seen at [REDACTED] for a regular well check up. [REDACTED]. No issues or concerns were reported at that time.

The agency followed up with collateral contacts [REDACTED]. The incident was determined to be accidental.

[REDACTED] accidental. The medical opinion supports the [REDACTED] explanation and history as being consistent with the injury. [REDACTED]

There are no criminal charges pending. [REDACTED]

Current/most recent status of case: The victim child resides with his mother, his father, and his twin sister. The victim child's parents have full time jobs. Northampton County CYF and the hospital staff reinforced safety techniques with the family. The hospital reviewed car seat safety with the parents and demonstrated the proper usage with the parents. Northampton County CYF also made the family aware of additional resources in the community that may be useful to the family. The agency did not have any other concerns with the family. There are no criminal charges pending. [REDACTED]

County strengths and deficiencies as identified by the County's (near) fatality report:

Northampton County Department of Human Services, Children, Youth, and Families Division was not required to convene a review team in accordance with Act 33 of 2008 related to this report.

Department of Public Welfare Findings:

County Strengths: The agency assessed the safety and risk of the children as required. The children were deemed to be safe in the care of their parents.

County Weaknesses: There are no areas of concern at this time.

Statutory and Regulatory Compliance Issues: The agency was in full compliance with statutory and regulatory laws.