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REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF



Date of BIRTH:
January 27, 2008

NEAR FATALITY
March 17, 2010

Family unknown to Berks County Children and Youth Services

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 on July 3, 2008 and went into effect on December 30, 2008. This Act amends the Child Protective Services Law (CPSL) and sets standards for reviewing and reporting child fatality and near child fatality as a result of suspected 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 Fatality/Near Fatality:

On March 17, 2010 Berks County Children and Youth Services received a report [REDACTED] by ambulance and was unresponsive. [REDACTED]

The investigation revealed that the [REDACTED] reported feeding the child cereal and she started choking. [REDACTED] stated [REDACTED] attempted to revive her by putting her in the bathtub. He then called for an ambulance. The child was not expected to survive upon arrival at the hospital and was sent to [REDACTED] was not present at the time of the incident. [REDACTED] and had trouble finding employment so he was home alone with the baby. [REDACTED]

Summary of Review:

The case was reviewed by Northeast Regional Office by conducting interviews with agency personnel involved in the case and reviewing the entire record. The investigation revealed that [REDACTED] had received three missed phone calls from [REDACTED] during the time that [REDACTED] was alone with the child. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the night before the [REDACTED] reported that it was not unusual for [REDACTED] to cry when she left for work in the morning. [REDACTED] The child was crying a lot before [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] after falling down while visiting at a friend's house [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] She was at work but called the doctor for what symptoms to watch for. This happened two weeks prior to this latest incident. [REDACTED] did also take the child to the doctor for a follow up from the bath tub fall [REDACTED]

[redacted] child's injuries were non accidental [redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]

Family Constellation:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
[redacted]	Victim Child	01/27/2008
[redacted]	Mother	[redacted] 1989
[redacted]	Father	[redacted] /1989

Documents Reviewed and Individuals Interviewed:

The entire case has been reviewed and interviews were conducted with staff involved in the intake, evaluation and investigation of the case. The Berks County intake manager, the supervisor, and the caseworker were interviewed several times.

Case Chronology:

03/17/10 [redacted] will handle the investigation [redacted]
[redacted] will be the investigating Officer.

03/17/10 [redacted] left at 2pm to go to work, came home at 12am. [redacted] up at 1:30 am and had vomit on mouth. [redacted] In the am she had a temp, [redacted] fussy in the morning before she went to work so she did not find it to be unusual when the child was crying in the morning before she left for work. [redacted] did not indicate that she [redacted] During the interview [redacted] was upset and seemed worried about [redacted]

03/17/10 [redacted]
[redacted]

03/17/10 [redacted]
[redacted]

03/18/10 Caseworker has contact with [redacted]
[redacted]

03/18/10 Caseworker called [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

03/22/10 Caseworker called [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Child is critical but stable.
Bruises were found on the child's
[REDACTED]

03/30/10 Caseworker called [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

04/06/10 Caseworker [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

04/06/10 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

04/6/10 [REDACTED]

04/06/10 Caseworker received [REDACTED] who was asking what needed to be done
to gain unsupervised contact [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] She also requested info on kinship.

04/07/2010 Caseworker called [REDACTED] to address services and [REDACTED]
receive unsupervised contact. She has been visiting [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

04/07/10 Caseworker informed that [REDACTED] would be receiving instruction on care [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

04/08/10 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

04/8/10 Caseworker informed the kinship family [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

04/09/10 Caseworker [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] wants visits. [REDACTED] still need supervised contact and
will be going to [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

04/09/10 Caseworker contacted by [REDACTED] to confirm that [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Findings and Recommendations:

Berks County did not have activity on this case prior to being notified that the [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] The investigation was complete and included
interviews with hospital, law enforcement, family, parents, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
child was in the hospital. The case was brought to court in a timely manner and a request to
make a finding [REDACTED]. The agency continues to serve this child and
family and needs to continue to determine [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]