



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

REPORT ON THE FATALITY OF:

RAMIR DAVION ROLLINS

Date of Birth: 12.14.11

Date of Death: 08.03.12

Date of Oral Report: 08.10.12

FAMILY NOT KNOWN TO:

Lackawanna County Children and Youth

REPORT FINALIZED ON: 04.23.13

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 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.

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. Lackawanna County Children and Youth Services has convened a review team in accordance with Act 33 of 2008 related to this report.

Family Constellation:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
Ramir Davion Rollins	Child/Victim	12.14.11
[REDACTED]	Full Sibling of Child/Victim	[REDACTED].10
[REDACTED]	Biological Father of Children	[REDACTED].87
[REDACTED]	Biological Mother of Children	[REDACTED].91

Non-Household Members:

[REDACTED]	Maternal Aunt
[REDACTED]	Maternal Step-Grandmother
[REDACTED]	Maternal Aunt
[REDACTED]	Maternal Uncle

Notification of Fatality

On August 3, 2012 Lackawanna County Children and Youth Services was [REDACTED] [REDACTED] apprising the county agency of an active [REDACTED] relating to the death of an infant, Ramir Davion Rollins III, while in the care of his biological father at the family residence in Scranton, Pennsylvania. At the time of the [REDACTED] county agency was apprised of the fact that the "cause of death was unknown". However, the [REDACTED] requested child welfare assistance as there is another sibling residing at the household and neighbor had reported [REDACTED] that there were frequent visitors to the home and the older child was frequently left unsupervised.

At the time of [REDACTED] on August 3, 2012, the case was not assigned a [REDACTED] general in nature. It was not until August 10, 2012 that the [REDACTED] contacted the public child welfare agency with information that was secured from the [REDACTED] that involved allegations of lack of supervision and [REDACTED] was contacted at this time and [REDACTED] Lackawanna County Children and Youth commenced a formal [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] at this time.

Summary of DPW Child Fatality Review Activities:

The Northeast Regional Office of Children, Youth and Families (NERO/OCYF) commenced a review of the county children and youth investigation on August 10, 2012 by establishing contact with the assigned [REDACTED] personnel and reviewing the current status of the investigation and the rationale for the assignment of a [REDACTED] investigation to the incident. Preliminary review of case file documentation occurred at this time. A review of the agency current safety plan relating to the sibling of Child/Victim was also conducted at this time. NERO/OCYF secured and reviewed the safety assessment and safety plan developed for this family and concurred with the plan set forth on August 10, 2012.

Additionally, another site record review was conducted on September 28, 2012 by the NERO/OCYF. The entire [REDACTED] was reviewed at this time. Interviews were also conducted with the [REDACTED] and supervisor. NERO/OCYF also participated on the Act 33 Fatality Review conducted on April 16, 2013.

Summary of Services to the Family

Children and Youth involvement prior to Incident:

Prior to the instant allegations there was no record of service activity to either the family of the Child/Victim or to the extended family by Lackawanna County Children and Youth Services.

Circumstances of child's near fatality and related case activity:

Lackawanna County Children and Youth initiated involvement with the [REDACTED] family on August 3, 2012 following reception of a [REDACTED] [REDACTED].

The Child/Victim was transported to the Emergency Room at Moses Taylor Hospital in Scranton, Pennsylvania, on August 3, 2012 where he was evaluated and found to be in "full cardiac arrest" upon arrival. The ambulance crew had commenced CPR at arrival at the home at 4:46 P.M until evaluation [REDACTED] Ramir was pronounce dead at 5:21 P. M. At this time the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] that may have been the result of CPR administration. [REDACTED] or neglect, [REDACTED] and CAT scan was ordered at this time.

[REDACTED] following the investigation of the death of the Child/Victim while [REDACTED]. Upon arrival at the family residence, the [REDACTED] was provided information that the biological father was acting as the primary caretaker for Ramir while the biological mother was at work. According to preliminary information [REDACTED] the Child/Victim was placed for a nap by the biological father in the afternoon. The biological father, after taking a shower returned to the bedroom where the Child/Victim was sleeping and noted that Ramir was not breathing. It was at this point [REDACTED].

There were a [REDACTED] conducted with the biological father [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Interviews were also conducted with the biological mother and other extended family members.

A [REDACTED] was also completed on the Sibling of the Child/Victim at the Lackawanna County CAC in Scranton, Pa. on August 3, 2012. [REDACTED] Sibling of Child/[REDACTED]

Given the emotional upheaval within the biological home, the extended family stepped in and offered to assist the biological mother in the day to day care of the Sibling of Child/Victim while the family [REDACTED] for the Child/Victim. This plan was reviewed with the county child welfare agency and the investigating law enforcement agencies and agreed to.

[REDACTED]

Lackawanna County Children and Youth Services [REDACTED] indicating that the biological father would be detained in [REDACTED] Prison on unrelated outstanding warrants pertaining to Domestic Relations Court. At this time, [REDACTED]. Interviews with the biological father evidenced inconsistencies in the narration of the circumstances surrounding care and supervision of Ramir prior to contact with the emergency services. [REDACTED] biological father tested positive for marijuana on the date of the incident.

On August 10, 2012, the county child welfare agency secured information from the law enforcement agency that indicated the manner of death of Ramir would be listed as homicide.

[REDACTED]. Lackawanna County Children and Youth Services case file also documents interviews with biological mother and extended family members. There was also evidence that the county child welfare agency actively sought out and assisted the family in [REDACTED] relating to the death of Ramir.

Current/most recent status of case:

Lackawanna County Children and Youth Services completed [REDACTED] on 9/27/12 [REDACTED]. This information was submitted to the [REDACTED] on the [REDACTED] to support that the [REDACTED] and rolled over on the child resulting in the child's death.

At this juncture, the Lackawanna County District Attorney's Office is preparing for a criminal trial relating to this matter. No final disposition on the outcome has been made.

Lackawanna County Children and Youth Services has [REDACTED] to the biological mother and sibling of the Child Victim by means of in person contact by agency personnel to assist in the [REDACTED] household child care items as well as serving as a [REDACTED]. The biological mother has extensive family support as her parents and siblings reside within close proximity of the family and are open to child care and support. The biological mother has maintained a willingness to prohibit the biological father any unsupervised contact with the sibling of the Child Victim. The biological mother has demonstrated this protective capacity throughout the duration of the involvement of the county child welfare agency. Presently the biological father of the Child Victim remains incarcerated.

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

County Strengths:

Lackawanna County Children and Youth evidenced a timely and comprehensive assessment of the incident and circumstances surrounding the fatality of Ramir Davion Rollins III. There was evidence of coordination of services and sharing of information with all investigating entities from the onset of agency involvement. The county agency acted in tandem with all other service providers in acting upon all the data and information secured from the law enforcement and medical community.

County Weaknesses:

The primary issue identified as a weakness associated with Lackawanna County Children and Youth Service's investigation and case disposition relates to the county agency's timeliness of convening an Act 33 Death Review. As the review occurred on April 16, 2013, the county agency failed to meet the mandate for reviewing the fatality within the timeframe established by statute.

County recommendations for changes at the local (County or State) levels as identified in County's near fatality report:

During the Act 33 Death Review that occurred on April 16, 2013, there was a recommendation made that included a proactive outreach to the medical community within the county to develop an educational handout for new parents that highlight the dangers of co-sleeping with infants. While the circumstances surrounding this case included issues related to drug usage by a caretaker, there was a consensus of opinion during the Act 33 Review that postulated additional education relating to the deleterious effects

of co-sleeping would benefit the population of parents of newborns within Lackawanna County.

Department of Public Welfare Findings:

County Strengths:

Lackawanna County Children and Youth Services has responded in a timely and appropriate manner to the allegations associated with the Ramir Rollins' fatality. Agency completed a thorough and timely assessment of the circumstances surrounding the initial referral of August 3, 2012 and [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

County Weaknesses:

As was referenced above, the primary weakness of the county's investigation of this fatality lies with the compliance with timeframes for various documents submitted to the Department of Public Welfare. While this case was investigated and [REDACTED] on September 27, 2012, the county agency did not comply with the statutory provisions of Act 33 relating to the conducting of a formal Child Fatality Review within the prescribed time frame.

Statutory and Regulatory Compliance Issues:

Site record review by the Northeast Regional Office of Children, Youth and Families (NERO/OCYF) determined that the agency complied with all requisite promulgations set forth by the Child Protective Services Law (CPSL) and Department of Public Regulations as they relate to timely assessment and [REDACTED]

Agency case file was complete and documented contemporaneously by case work and supervisory staff. There was ample evidence of collaboration and consultation with medical professionals and law enforcement entities.

The only issue that was found to be outside of compliance with Department of Public Welfare and Act 33 statutory provisions relates to the timeliness of the county agency completing the formal Act 33 Fatality Case Review. As this panel completed the process on April 16, 2013, the timeframe for this endeavor falls outside of the 30 day requirement.