

Office of Children, Youth and Families

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REPORT ON THE NEAR DEATH OF

[REDACTED]

**DOB: 11/20/08
DATE OF NEAR FATALITY: 6/5/09**

FAMILY KNOWN TO:

The family was not known to Franklin County C&Y

**REPORT DATED 02/02/10
REPORT FINALIZED 02/08/10**

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. Section 6349 (b)).

Circumstances of Child's Fatality or Near Fatality:

██████████ reported that on 6/7/09, ██████████ was carried into the emergency room by ██████████, paramour of ██████████, ██████████ mother. ██████████ was not with them when they arrived. ██████████ was unresponsive upon arrival. ██████████ told ██████████ that ██████████ was crying and then suddenly he went limp. ██████████ stated that ██████████ gave inconsistent stories regarding child's injury. Child was examined and ██████████. ██████████ stated child felt well all day then said child hit his head on a walker the day before. ██████████ states that a child in a walker couldn't possibly hit his head hard enough on a walker to suffer a ██████████. ██████████ could not treat the injury and ██████████ was transferred to Hershey Medical Center. ██████████ felt ██████████ would probably need surgery.

██████████ at Hershey Medical Center examined ██████████ upon arrival. ██████████ had bruising on one knee, around the left eye and temple area and on his buttocks. The ██████████ is on the left side. Surgery was not needed at this time since ██████████ was stable. An ophthalmology exam was done which showed ██████████, the first indicator of child abuse, according to ██████████. ██████████ informed Franklin County Children and Youth that on 6/7/09 ██████████ told them that ██████████ was in a bouncy seat that hangs in a doorway and ██████████ banged his head while bouncing in the seat on Friday night 6/5/09. ██████████ was alone with ██████████ as ██████████ was out grocery shopping. ██████████ confirmed that she was out and when she walked in the house she saw ██████████ hit his head off the door frame.

██████████ stated that the injuries were not compatible with what was described by ██████████. He stated that the type of fracture was more consistent with a crushing blow, like a television falling on a child. This injury was ██████████ non-accidental.

Current/Most Recent Status of Case:

The case was accepted for ongoing services on 6/11/09. On 6/12/09, ██████████ was discharged from the hospital into the care of his maternal grandparents, ██████████ by voluntary agreement of the mother. A safety plan was completed on 6/11/09 stating that ██████████ will voluntarily care for ██████████ in her home, which has been assessed as appropriate through a home visit. ██████████ will assure that ██████████ will have no unsupervised contact with ██████████ at anytime. ██████████ will contact Franklin County Children and Youth if ██████████ attempts to resume care of ██████████ without prior agreement among all parties. A risk assessment was completed on 6/11/09 with an overall level of risk

as high due to [REDACTED] having severe head trauma and no plausible explanation was given by mother or paramour. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was arrested on charges related to the [REDACTED] of [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] father, has had no contact with [REDACTED] since Feb. 2009. [REDACTED] was returned home 12/1/09 to the custody of his mother and the case remains open for monitoring. Initially, the mother refused to allow [REDACTED] to see [REDACTED]. Currently there is sporadic contact between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] but always in the presence of the mother either in her home or in the community.

Services to Children and Families:

- [REDACTED] was placed with his maternal grandparents upon discharge from the hospital who will provide 24 hour adult supervision.
- Franklin County Children and Youth will conduct announced and unannounced home visits with [REDACTED].
- Franklin County Children and Youth will provide general parenting information, assess the parent's progress and participation in the classes and make recommendations.
- [REDACTED] were referred for parenting classes and [REDACTED] classes through Franklin County Children and Youth Services.
- [REDACTED] successfully completed Parenting Classes and a [REDACTED].
- [REDACTED] were required to maintain suitable housing for themselves and [REDACTED].
- [REDACTED] is currently being treated for [REDACTED] and taking [REDACTED].
- [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] have separated and [REDACTED] has no contact with [REDACTED].
- Currently the family is being monitored by the agency however no additional services are being provided.

County Strengths and Deficiencies as identified by the County's Near Fatality Report:

None

County Recommendations for changes at the Local Levels as identified by Fatality Report:

None

Central Region Findings:

County Strengths-

An internal staffing was conducted on 6/9/09 and 6/10/09 with the agency solicitor, administration, and supervisors. The caseworker was instructed to follow up with Waynesboro Police department in coordinating the [REDACTED] investigation, assess [REDACTED], maternal grandmother as a possible resource for [REDACTED], and contact [REDACTED] at Hershey Medical Center for an update as to cause of injury to [REDACTED].

Franklin County Children and Youth conducted an appropriate investigation and [REDACTED]. The agency assessed safety and assured safety of the child. The agency provided services as needed for the family.

Statutory and Regulatory Compliance Issues:

Franklin County Children and Youth conducted an appropriate investigation [REDACTED].

- The caseworker interviewed the parents, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] from Hershey Medical Center, other medical staff from Hershey Medical Center and Waynesboro Police Dept.
- A Safety Assessment was completed on 6/11/09. The caseworker met with the parents and maternal grandmother to assure the safety of the child.
- A Risk Assessment was accurately completed on 6/11/09 with an overall severity of high due to [REDACTED] having severe head trauma and no plausible explanation was given by mother or paramour. The overall risk was high due to this being a 6 month old child with a skull fracture and bleeding in the brain. The parents did not give a plausible explanation, the doctor stated the injury is non-accidental and there was no other caregiver in the parent's home to assure safety.
- The family was accepted for services on 6/11/09.
- The Family Service Plan was completed within 30 days.
- The agency provided services for the family to include Parenting Classes and [REDACTED].