

Office of Children, Youth and Families

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REPORT ON THE NEAR DEATH OF

[REDACTED]

**DOB: 5/18/09
DATE OF NEAR FATALITY: 6/8/09**

**FAMILY KNOWN TO:
Family was not known to Franklin County Children and Youth Services**

REPORT FINALIZED 2/2/2010

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)).

Reason for Review

Senate Bill No. 1147 now known as Act 33 was signed by Governor Rendell on July 3, 2008 and went into effect on December 30, 2008. This Act amends the Child Protective Services Law (CPSL) and sets the standards for reviewing and reporting child fatality and near child fatalities that were suspected to have occurred due to 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.

Family Constellation:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
[REDACTED]	Victim Child	5/18/09
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED] 1984
[REDACTED]	Father	[REDACTED] 1986
[REDACTED]	Maternal grandmother	[REDACTED] 1949

Notification of Fatality/Near Fatality:

[REDACTED] reported that on this date, [REDACTED] was brought into the emergency room by her mother. The mother stated that [REDACTED] was placed in a car seat and placed on the kitchen table by the maternal grandmother, who remained in the kitchen. The child's mother was in the other room and heard [REDACTED] crying. When she came into the kitchen, [REDACTED] was on the floor in the car seat. Mother believed [REDACTED] head struck the floor tiles. [REDACTED] did not lose consciousness. [REDACTED] mother took her to the emergency room and a CAT scan revealed [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was life-flighted to Hershey Medical Center for further treatment on the same day.

Documentation Reviewed and Individuals Interviewed:

Central Region Office of Children, Youth and Families interviewed Franklin County Children and Youth Services, Child Protective Services intake worker and supervisor. The case file was reviewed which included case notes, case record, medical file, MDT review and the police report.

Case Chronology:

Previous CY Involvement:

NONE

Circumstances of Child's Fatality or Near Fatality:

The maternal grandmother admitted putting [REDACTED] in the car seat and placing the car seat on the kitchen table but [REDACTED] was not buckled in. She used the car seat to push the mess on the table. She walked a few feet away from the table and as she turned toward the table she noticed the car seat was slipping and falling to the floor. [REDACTED] fell approximately 3 feet and hit the back of her head on the floor. [REDACTED] was taken to Chambersburg Hospital where a CAT scan revealed [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was life-flighted to Hershey Medical Center on 6/8/09 and remained there until 6/11/09. [REDACTED] confirmed that the explanation given with regards to falling off the table is consistent with the injury.

Current/Most Recent Status of Case:

[REDACTED] the maternal grandmother, was not a household member nor in a caretaker role. Injury to the child was accidental. [REDACTED] mother acknowledged that her mother has [REDACTED] and assured the agency that [REDACTED] would not be left alone with her. The case was closed on 6/12/09 and the agency had no further contact with the family.

Services to Children and Families:

The family, mother and child, was not opened for services. [REDACTED]. The father is in Guatemala but has daily telephone contact with the family. The family plans to move to Guatemala in November if the father is unable to return to Chambersburg.

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

An MDT was conducted on 6/15/09 with agency solicitor, agency administrator, agency administrative assistant, intake team, and the following members of the MDT team, [REDACTED]

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

None

Central Region Findings:

County Strengths-

Franklin County Children and Youth conducted an appropriate investigation [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. The agency assessed safety and assured safety of the child. The agency assessed the need for services for the family and determined that services were not needed at this time.

Statutory and Regulatory Compliance Issues:

A Safety Assessment was completed on 6/12/09. The caseworker met with the mother. The mother agreed that she would supervise the child at all times, meet the child's basic needs and will continue to follow through with [REDACTED]'s medical appointments and doctors recommendations.

Timeliness of investigation-The agency completed their investigation in a timely manner as the agency received the [REDACTED] referral on 6/8/09 and completed the investigation on 6/17/09.

The caseworker interviewed the mother, maternal grandmother, Dr. [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and Chambersburg Police Dept. officer.

A Risk Assessment was completed on 6/17/09. The overall severity was none in that the child sustained an accidental injury. The overall risk was none in that there were no signs, symptoms, credible statements or reports to suggest prior abuse or neglect had occurred.

The family was not accepted for services and closed on 6/17/09.