



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

OFFICE OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

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REPORT ON THE NEAR DEATH OF



BORN: 08/10/97
DATE OF NEAR DEATH: 02/21/09

FAMILY KNOWN TO:
THE FAMILY WAS NOT KNOWN TO ANY COUNTY AGENCIES
THE FAMILY WAS NOT KNOWN TO ANY SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES

REPORT DATE 08/05/2009
REPORT FINALIZED 02/09/10

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. 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 180 days from that date, December 30, 2008. The Act amends the Child Protective Services Law (CPSL) and sets 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.

Circumstances of Near Death.

On 2/22/09 Philadelphia Department of Human Services received a [REDACTED] report that [REDACTED] was stabbed in the stomach by her mother's paramour, [REDACTED]. The incident occurred on 2/21/09 at 10:00am. [REDACTED] were arguing, [REDACTED] was trying to help her mother who was being stabbed by the [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] set the house and himself on fire. Both [REDACTED] died in the fire.

Summary of Review.**1. Family Constellation.****Household Members:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
[REDACTED]	victim child	8/10/97
[REDACTED]	half sister	[REDACTED] 2000
[REDACTED]	half brother	[REDACTED] 2007
[REDACTED]	biological mother (deceased)	[REDACTED] 1978
[REDACTED]	mother's paramour (deceased)	dob unknown

[REDACTED] (child) is the biological child of [REDACTED].
 [REDACTED] (child) is the biological child of [REDACTED], and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is currently incarcerated at the Detention center located 8201 State Road, Philadelphia, PA 19136.

[REDACTED] (victim child) is the biological child of [REDACTED].

Non-Household Members:

[REDACTED], biological father of [REDACTED] (victim child).
 [REDACTED], biological father of [REDACTED].
 [REDACTED], maternal grandparents, [REDACTED] Philadelphia, PA.
 [REDACTED], paternal grandmother of [REDACTED].

2. Documents Reviewed:

For this review the SEOCYF reviewed the Philadelphia Department of Human Services Near-Fatality Review Report, the [REDACTED] investigation, Structured Case and Progress Notes, the Safety Assessment, the Pennsylvania Model-Risk Assessment, Saint Christopher's Hospital for Children medical report and the Philadelphia School District records for [REDACTED].

3. Case Chronology:

This family has had no contact with County Children and Youth Agencies, nor any other social service agencies. Family has no prior reports. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was hospitalized at St. Christopher Hospital for Children, after being stabbed by [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was stabbed in her aorta and mesenteries artery (abdomen). [REDACTED] was diagnosed as in critical and serious condition. Dr. [REDACTED] of St. Christopher's Hospital for Children determined that this is a near fatality; he stated that [REDACTED] will survive. [REDACTED]

*2/22/09 Safety Assessment and Safety Plan

The county's findings, [REDACTED] will remain in the hospital. [REDACTED] will reside with maternal grandparents [REDACTED]. There was a home visit/safety assessment at the home of maternal grandparents according to the county findings; the determination was Safe with a comprehensive safety plan. The safety threat is #9: Caregiver(s) in the home are not performing duties and responsibilities that assure child safety. The explanation, mother and father of [REDACTED] are deceased. Mother was primary caregiver. Mother was killed in a fire set by father of [REDACTED]. The safety plan, for safety threat #9. The maternal grandparents for the children will care for the children, the children will reside with them permanently. DHS reports that they obtained necessary clearances of the grandparents. [REDACTED], father of [REDACTED], is in agreement that his daughter resides with maternal grandparents permanently.

*2/23/09 Home visit/safety assessment with [REDACTED], paternal grandmother of [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] spent the night with [REDACTED], however the plan is that [REDACTED] will reside with her maternal grandparents [REDACTED]. According to the county findings, there were no safety threats present.

*2/23/09 Home visit in the home of [REDACTED]. The family informed the worker that they have made contact with the children's schools; school personnel are prepared to help the children once they return to school. The family suggested that it would be better for the DHS worker to interview [REDACTED] when family is present to help her in her emotional state. [REDACTED]. The worker began a conversation about kinship care; the family was not able to have this conversation as they were planning the memorial service for the mother.

The purpose to discuss the alleged incidents and to evaluate [REDACTED] safety and well being. The county findings, [REDACTED] will continue to live with maternal grandparents.

*2/23/09 Visit/Face to Face Contact with [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is currently in the [REDACTED] at St. Christopher Hospital for Children. [REDACTED] will remain at the hospital until her medical condition improves and she is discharge. Upon discharge [REDACTED] will reside with her maternal grandparents.

2/24/09 Telephone contact with [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] Worker would contact hospital in 3-5 days to determine if worker could discuss incident with [REDACTED] without re-traumatizing her.

2/25/09 County worker contacted Detective [REDACTED], Special Victim's Unit. The police have closed their case.

3/3/09 Telephone contact and home visit with [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] informed that [REDACTED] was discharged on 02/27/09 from St. Christopher's Hospital for Children and [REDACTED] has been with her since 2/27/09.

3/4/09 Worker contacted [REDACTED] daycare, and spoke with the director. The director reported that [REDACTED] is doing will at daycare and there are no issues.

3/9/09 Home visit/closing visit at the home of [REDACTED]. The [REDACTED] informed social worker that she filed for custody on 3/9/09 and she has a custody hearing scheduled for 6/11/09. Both children returned to school on 3/9/09. During the visit the children appeared to be well bonded with grandparents. There were no safety threats present that would prevent [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] from residing in family's home with their maternal grandparents. Both grandparents' cognitive, emotional and behavioral capacities are sufficient enough to ensure the children's safety.

Findings and Recommendations:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] was hospitalized after being stabbed in her aorta and mesenteries artery, (abdomen). [REDACTED]

2. The maternal grandparents [REDACTED] of [REDACTED], Philadelphia, PA; filed for custody of the children on 03/09/09. The biological father of [REDACTED] agreed with this plan. The biological father of [REDACTED] is incarcerated. The social worker did receive a verbal agreement from father who agreed with the plan.

[REDACTED]

4. The family was offered kinship care services through DHS. The family declined the services.
5. The family had received services through the Philadelphia Police Department Victim Assistance; Officer [REDACTED] provided the services. The family has declined further services.
6. The safety assessment revealed that the children are safe in the home of the maternal grandparents. Overall both grandparents, cognitive, emotional and behavioral capacities are sufficient enough to ensure children's safety, permanence and well being. The children are well connected and bonded to their maternal grandparents.
7. It was determined that the Philadelphia Department of Human Services [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and offered services to the children that will address their emotional needs, as all three children have suffered emotional harm. [REDACTED] witnessed their mother being stabbed and burned by their mother's paramour.