

Organization

Department of Public Welfare  
Office of Children, Youth and Families  
Western Region

Child Near Fatality Review



DOB: February 11, 2005

The Family was not known to McKean County Children and Youth Services

REPORT DATE: January 13, 2010  
REPORT FINALIZED: February 5, 2010

This report is confidential under the provisions of the Child Protective Service Law and cannot be released further.

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 into law by Governor Rendell 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 fatalities and near child fatalities 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 Near Death:**

On the morning of May 24, 2009, [REDACTED] woke up early, about 8:00AM. Her father [REDACTED] took [REDACTED] into the living room. The mother [REDACTED] and her brother [REDACTED] remained asleep in their bed rooms. [REDACTED] laid down on the couch while [REDACTED] played in front of him on the floor. [REDACTED] fell back asleep. About 20 minutes later [REDACTED] woke up to [REDACTED] screaming and he saw a fireball at the bottom of [REDACTED] pajama top that was spreading upward. [REDACTED] immediately removed [REDACTED] pajama top and put her in a shower running cold water over her. The father is an emergency medical technician. Apparently [REDACTED] had retrieved a Bic lighter from a cabinet drawer and was playing with it. Mom, who woke up when she heard [REDACTED] screaming, called 911, while father was providing first aid. [REDACTED] was transported to Olean General Hospital by ambulance. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was complaining of pain in her chest, right and left arm. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] She was transferred to Buffalo Women's and Children's Hospital on May 24, 2009. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. Later that day [REDACTED] was flown to Shriners Hospital for Children in Cincinnati Ohio for treatment, she was accompanied by her parents. [REDACTED] was admitted to the Shriners Hospital on May 24, 2009. An evaluation of her injuries was conducted by the medical team. Her wounds were cleaned and her parents were taught wound care. [REDACTED] was discharged to her parents on May 26, 2009. A safety assessment was completed and based on the agencies assessment of the parents as caretakers, made in conjunction with treating physicians that [REDACTED] injuries were sustained accidentally, and that the parents were responsive to her and committed to following through with her ongoing medical treatment. The final diagnosis was [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]. Extent of permanent injury or disfigurement is minimal.

On May 24, 2009, McKean County Children and Youth Services received a referral on the [REDACTED] family from [REDACTED]. Since [REDACTED] was receiving treatment for her injuries, McKean County Children and Youth Services initial focus on the case was

safety planning for her brother [REDACTED]. Cattaraugus County, New York, [REDACTED] was contacted by the agency. They conducted an emergency safety assessment on the paternal grandmother's home and found it to be safe. [REDACTED] stayed with his paternal grandmother while his parents attended to [REDACTED] at Shriners in Cincinnati. [REDACTED] returned to his parents care when [REDACTED] returned home from the hospital based on the agencies assessment of the parents as caretakers, made in conjunction with treating physicians that [REDACTED] injuries were sustained accidentally, and that the parents were responsive to her and committed to following through with her ongoing medical treatment. There were no safety concerns noted for [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

**Summary of Review:**

**Family Constellation:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
[REDACTED]	Victim Child	2/11/2005
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED] 1983
[REDACTED]	Father	[REDACTED] 1978
[REDACTED]	Brother	[REDACTED] 2003

**Documents Reviewed and Individuals Interviewed:**

The Department reviewed the McKean County Children and Youth Services case file on several occasions. The case file contained all the required documentation related to [REDACTED] Investigation; this included: demographic information, documentation of all interviews the agency conducted, home visits, investigation report, investigation summary, consent for information forms, supervisor ten day review forms, risk and safety assessments, medical records from Oleon General Hospital, Buffalo Women's and Children's Hospital, Shriners Hospital for Children, Well Child Care Records for both [REDACTED] and Supervisor [REDACTED] were interviewed. Reviews of these records indicated compliance with all services and there were no areas of concern noted.

**Case Chronology**

Prior to [REDACTED] near death incident on May 24, 2009, the family and children were not known to McKean County Children and Youth Services.

**Findings:**

[REDACTED] has [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]