



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

REPORT ON THE FATALITY OF:

Robert Osterhout

Date of Birth: 01/26/2013

Date of Death 04/12/2014

Date of Oral Report: 4/12/2014

FAMILY NOT KNOWN TO:

The family was not known to any County Children and Youth Agency

REPORT FINALIZED ON:

08/09/2015

Unredacted reports are confidential under the provisions of the Child Protective Services Law and cannot be released to the public.

(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 1147, Printer's Number 2159 was signed into law on July 3, 2008. The bill became effective on December 30, 2008 and is known as Act 33 of 2008. As part of Act 33 of 2008, DPW must conduct a review and provide a written report of all cases of suspected child abuse that result in a child fatality or near fatality. This written report must be completed as soon as possible but no later than six months after the date the report was registered with ChildLine for investigation.

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. Bucks County did not convene a review team in accordance with Act 33 of 2008 related to this report. The report was determined to be accidental [REDACTED] determined that the incident was accidental in nature.

Family Constellation:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth:</u>
Osterhout, Robert	Victim Child	01/26/2013
[REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED]/2005
[REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED]/2009
[REDACTED]	Biological Mother	[REDACTED]/1978
[REDACTED]	Biological Father	[REDACTED]/1974
* [REDACTED]	Maternal Grandmother	Adult
* [REDACTED]	Maternal Grandfather	Adult
* [REDACTED]	live next door to the family, they are involved with the family and they provide support to the family.	

Notification of Child Fatality:

On April 12, 2014 Bucks County Children and Youth received a telephone call [REDACTED] concerning 14 month old Robert Osterhout. On April 12, Robert Osterhout was transported to St. Christopher Hospital for Children via Medivac. He was in the home driveway and his father backed up the car and hit the child. The incident occurred on April 12, 2014 at approximately 9:20am. On April 12, 2014, the child was pronounced dead at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children at 10:24am. [REDACTED]

Summary of DPW Child Near Fatality Review Activities:

The Southeast Regional Office of Children, Youth and Families obtained and reviewed all current case records pertaining to the [REDACTED] family. The Southeast Regional Office collaborated with county supervisor, [REDACTED]

Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:

There was no Children and Youth involvement prior to the incident.

Circumstances of Child Fatality and Related Case Activity:

On April 12, 2014 the Bucks County Children and Youth received a telephone call [REDACTED] concerning 14 month old Robert Osterhout. Robert was transported to St. Christopher's via Medivac and was pronounced dead at 10:24 a.m. Robert was in the driveway at their home when his father backed up the car and ran over him. Both of the parents were home at the time of the incident. [REDACTED]

The father and his daughter, [REDACTED], were in the car preparing to go to soccer practice and a soccer game. The mother was in the house with [REDACTED]. The mother reported that the front door was open because it was a nice day. The mother stated that Robert had just learned how to open and close the screen door. Mother further reported that Robert left the home and went into the driveway between the two family vehicles. The father and daughter were in the Chevrolet Trailblazer. The father backed up and realized he hit something he reported that he thought he hit one of the children's toys. When he got out of the vehicle to see what he had hit, he saw that he hit and ran over Robert.

The family was distraught over the death of Robert and the tragic accident. It was extremely difficult for the family and they were appropriately upset regarding the incident.

The county completed a safety assessment and risk assessment. It was determined that [REDACTED] were safe with no safety threats present. The risk assessment determined low risk.

[REDACTED] determined that the incident to be accidental in nature.

Current Case Status:

- [REDACTED] are safe with their parents. The family continues to receive support from extended family and their community. The family is [REDACTED].
- This investigation was determined to be accidental in nature, there were no criminal proceedings.
- The investigation was closed for both Bucks County Children and Youth and Law Enforcement.

County Strengths and Deficiencies and Recommendations for Change as Identified by the County's Child Fatality Report:

A review team was not convened. The report was determined accidental in nature [REDACTED] within the required timeframes.

Department Review of County Internal Report:

There is no County Internal Report as the case was determined accidental [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Department of Public Welfare Findings:

County Strengths:

- The County was sensitive to the needs of the family as this was a tragic accident. The County utilized sensitivity interviewing techniques for both the parents and their children.
- The County completed a quality investigation in a timely manner.
- The County was sensitive to the needs of the family as this incident was a tragic accident.
- The County collaborated with the medical team at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children.

County Weaknesses:

There are no county weaknesses identified.

- Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance:
There are no statutory and regulatory areas of noncompliance.

Department of Public Welfare Recommendations:

As this incident was a tragic accident, there are no Department of Public Welfare Recommendations.