



## **REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:**

[REDACTED]

**Date of Birth:** 02/23/2017  
**Date of Incident:** 07/21/2017  
**Date of Report to ChildLine:** 07/21/2017  
**CWIS Referral ID:** [REDACTED]

**FAMILY NOT KNOWN TO COUNTY CHILDREN AND YOUTH AGENCY AT TIME  
OF INCIDENT OR WITHIN THE PRECEDING 16 MONTHS:**

**Clearfield County Children, Youth and Family Services**

**REPORT FINALIZED ON:**  
01/10/2018

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. Section 6349 (b))

**Reason for Review:**

Pursuant to the Child Protective Services Law, the Department, through OCYF, must conduct a review and provide a written report of all cases of suspected child abuse that result in a 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.

The Child Protective Services Law also requires that county children and youth agencies convene a review when a report of child abuse involving a fatality or near fatality is substantiated or when a status determination has not been made regarding the report within 30 days of the report to ChildLine.

Clearfield County Children, Youth, and Families (CCCYF) has not convened a review team in accordance with the Child Protective Services Law related to this report. The Act 33 review team was not convened as the report was unfounded within 30 days.

**Family Constellation:**

<u>First and Last Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth:</u>
[REDACTED]	Victim Child	02/23/2017
[REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED] 2011
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED] 1994
[REDACTED]	Father	[REDACTED] 1993

**Summary of OCYF Child Near Fatality Review Activities:**

The Western Region Office of Children, Youth and Families (WRO) reviewed the case record pertaining to the victim child’s family. The WRO staff interviewed the case worker in regards to the incident.

**Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:**

CCCYF did not have any prior involvement with the family.

**Circumstances of Child Near Fatality and Related Case Activity:**

On 07/21/2017 CCCYF, received a referral on a 5- month-old girl who had rolled off the bed onto a carpeted floor. The victim child was taken by ambulance to a local hospital. The victim child was then transported to Children’s Hospital in Pittsburgh (CHP) by helicopter. When the ambulance crew arrived at the family home, they smelled an odor of marijuana on the father. Due to this, they decided not to transport the father to the hospital with the victim child.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Based on the fall and the bleed, the Emergency Room doctor certified her in “serious condition” which registered the child’s referral as a near fatality.

Upon receiving the referral for investigation, the CCCYF caseworker called Allegheny County Office of Children, Youth and Family (ACOCYF) to complete a courtesy interview with the parents and to see the child. ACOCYF did interview the parents while at the hospital. It was reported that only the mother was home when the child rolled off the bed, as the father had been at work. No safety plan was established while the child was at the hospital due to [REDACTED] CHP reporting the injuries were consistent with a fall from the bed. The CCCYF caseworker contacted [REDACTED] CHP to inquire about the victim child's condition [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the injury to the victim child was consistent with the description of incident that the mother stated that occurred. [REDACTED]

The CCCYF caseworker did have a conversation with the parents by telephone that same day. She explained to them that the agency had received a referral regarding the child's injuries which she was investigating. The caseworker told the family that she needed to see the sibling that was also living in the home. Initially, the father was upset with the caseworker but eventually gave permission for the caseworker to see the sibling. The sibling was staying with the paternal grandmother until the victim child was released from the hospital.

The sibling was seen by the caseworker on the same day of incident. The sibling stated that the victim child fell from the bed to the carpeted floor when their mother was getting a bottle ready in the next room. Their mother immediately came and took her to the doctors.

On 07/23/2017, [REDACTED] called the agency [REDACTED] and wanted to be sure the home was an appropriate place for her [REDACTED] CCCYF had spoken with the victim child's sibling who reported witnessing the child rolling off the bed and [REDACTED] physician stating that the child's injuries were consistent with this type of fall they determined that the child could be returned to her parents care. [REDACTED]

There was no evidence of shaking of the victim child. The agency agreed [REDACTED] the victim child to the parents. The caseworker requested the mother contact the caseworker when she returns home so she could complete a home visit.

The family returned home that evening and did contact the agency. The caseworker arrived at the home. The home did not have any safety concerns. The mother and the father reviewed the incident again with the caseworker. The mother stated she was no more than 10 feet from the victim child making a bottle. She turned to grab the bottle and she heard the baby fall. The mother called for an ambulance to transport the victim child to the hospital. The father was reportedly

out of the home at the time of the incident at work. The parents denied any mental health or drug and alcohol issues.

CCCYF submitted the investigation outcome with a status of "Unfounded" on 08/22/2017. The family's version of events were consistent with the injury of the child [REDACTED]. The agency closed the case. The criminal investigation resulted in no charges being pressed.

**Summary of County Strengths, Deficiencies and Recommendations for Change as Identified by the County's Child Near Fatality Report:**

CCCYF was not required to submit a report since the report was unfounded within 30 days of the oral report to ChildLine.

- Strengths in compliance with statutes, regulations and services to children and families;
- Not Applicable
- Deficiencies in compliance with statutes, regulations and services to children and families;
- Not Applicable
  
- Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on reducing the likelihood of future child fatalities and near fatalities directly related to abuse;
- Not Applicable
  
- Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on monitoring and inspection of county agencies; and
- Not Applicable
  
- Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on collaboration of community agencies and service providers to prevent child abuse.
- Not Applicable

**Department Review of County Internal Report:**

CCCYF was not required to submit a report since the report was unfounded within 30 days of the oral report to ChildLine.

**Department of Human Services Findings:**

- County Strengths: CCCYF worked with ACOCYF to ensure that the victim child was seen within twenty -four hours of the report being filed. CCCYF assessed the safety of the sibling that remained in the home. CCCYF worked cooperatively with the local detectives to unfound the case.
  
- County Weaknesses: Dictation noted that the CW suggested that father be drug tested due to the allegations of the father smelling like marijuana. There was no follow up for this prior to case closure.

- Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance by the County Agency.  
None

**Department of Human Services Recommendations:**

When possible, the county agency needs to see the victim child face to face along with the parents at the hospital.

If caseworker feels either parent is under the influence of drugs or alcohol during an alleged incident, drug testing should occur. This would determine if a further evaluation is needed.