



REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:

[REDACTED]

Date of Birth: 05/08/2004
Date of Incident: 08/09/2017
Date of Report to ChildLine: 08/10/2017
CWIS Referral ID: [REDACTED]

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

Schuylkill County Children and Youth Services

REPORT FINALIZED ON:
01/04/2018

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 the Office of Children, Youth and Families (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.

Schuylkill County Office of Children and Youth Services did not convene a review team as the investigation was completed within thirty days and the report was unfounded.

Family Constellation:

<u>First and Last Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth:</u>
[REDACTED]	Victim child	05/08/2004
[REDACTED]	Biological Mother	[REDACTED] 1979
[REDACTED]	Maternal Half-Sibling	[REDACTED] 2010
[REDACTED]	Ex-Paramour	[REDACTED] 1978
* [REDACTED]	Paramour	[REDACTED] 1979
* [REDACTED]	Maternal Aunt	[REDACTED] 1972
* [REDACTED]	Maternal Uncle	[REDACTED] 1971
* [REDACTED]	Biological Father	[REDACTED] 1976

* Denotes an individual that is not a household member or did not live in the home at the time of the incident, but is relevant to the report.

Summary of OCYF Child Near Fatality Review Activities:

The Northeast Regional Office of Children Youth and Families (NERO) received and reviewed records of the Child Protective Services (CPS) Investigation. NERO had a conversation with the investigating worker and the ongoing worker.

Summary of Circumstances prior to Incident:

There is no prior agency involvement with this child or family.

Circumstances of Child Near Fatality and Related Case Activity:

On 08/10/2017, Schuylkill County Office of Children and Youth Services received a referral that the 13-year-old female victim child was brought by ambulance to the emergency department of Geisinger Medical Center in Danville as a transfer from

emergency department. On 08/08/2017 the victim child was found by her maternal uncle, on the floor, unresponsive surrounded by jelly beans at approximately 4:00 pm. The victim child [REDACTED] since age 6. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the victim child was still not doing well and had an altered mental status. The victim child was certified to be in critical /serious condition due to suspected neglect. The report listed the maternal aunt and uncle as the alleged perpetrators for prolonged or egregious failure to supervise.

The victim child had been staying at the home of her maternal aunt and uncle for a few days due to ongoing conflict between the victim child and the mother. The victim child's family was in the process of moving to a new house and the child was being uncooperative. The victim child expressed she was upset with her mother as she and her step father were getting divorced. The victim child is also dealing with her father not being present in her life. In addition to the victim child's [REDACTED] noncompliance, there were also issues with her lack of personal hygiene.

The victim child [REDACTED] at the age of 6.5. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] At the age of 9, the victim child was [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The victim child requested [REDACTED] at age 13.

The victim child expressed [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was holding her back from participating in activities. At that time everything was going well there were no issues with non-compliance.

The mother reports the victim child started to be non-compliant at the end of sixth grade. As per the mother this behavior coincided with the victim child's father choosing to maintain his lifestyle as opposed to seeing the victim child for visits.

[REDACTED] On the date of incident the victim child was at the home of her maternal aunt and uncle. The aunt stated the victim child informed her [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The victim child then ate breakfast [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The victim child informed the maternal aunt that she had done so. The maternal aunt then left for work. The maternal uncle said he had not heard much from the victim child so he checked on her around 2:00 pm. The maternal uncle reports he poked his head into the victim child's room where she was lying down and told the victim child he had made some food and asked if she wanted a cheeseburger. The victim child declined. The maternal uncle reported he checked on the victim child a second time at 4:00 pm and found her unresponsive and her breathing was rapid and shallow. The maternal uncle called 911.

The victim child [REDACTED] on 08/23/2017 and returned to the home of her mother. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The family was accepted for services with Schuylkill County Office of Children and Youth Services. Initially the

victim child was compliant [REDACTED]
The family began receiving intensive services [REDACTED] to address the mother's interaction and parenting of the victim child as well as assuring that the mother was vigilant with the victim child's medical condition [REDACTED]. The victim child began [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and the mother had taken the victim child to the emergency room several times. There were concerns both from the mother as well as the [REDACTED] regarding the victim child's [REDACTED] the mother did not have a handle on the victim child's medical issues.

[REDACTED]

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

The case was unfounded within 30 days and there was no Act 33 meeting.

Department Review of County Internal Report:

This case was unfounded within 30 days and there was no Act 33 meeting.

Department of Human Services Findings:

- County Strengths:

NERO has determined that Schuylkill County Office of Children and Youth Services commenced the investigation of the victim child's case in a timely manner. Interviews were completed on all household members and all medical reports received and reviewed.

- County Weaknesses: None

- Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance by the County Agency.

There were no areas of statutory or regulatory non-compliance identified.

Department of Human Services Recommendations:

Enhanced focus on training and educational materials for parents and caretakers regarding the importance of compliance and monitoring of medication [REDACTED] children should occur. When patients are of the age to self-medicate, additional review and monitoring efforts should be discussed with the patient and the caretakers.