



REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY

[REDACTED]

Date of Birth: 10/12/2016
Date of Incident: 10/11/2017
Report to Child Line: 10/12/2017
CWIS Referral ID: [REDACTED]

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

York County Office of Children, Youth and Families

REPORT FINALIZED ON:
04/17/2018

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.

York County Office of Children, Youth and Families submitted an unfounded report to ChildLine on 11/08/2017. York County Office of Children, Youth and Families did not convene a review team in accordance with the Child Protective Services Law related to this report since 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	10/12/2016
[REDACTED] *	Father	[REDACTED] 1993
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED] 1998
[REDACTED] *	Paternal Uncle	[REDACTED] 1998

* 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. The father was incarcerated at the time of the incident.

Summary of OCYF Child Near Fatality Review Activities:

The Central Region Office of Children, Youth and Families (CRO) obtained and reviewed the case records pertaining to the family, which included [REDACTED], agency casework dictation and safety assessment worksheets that outlined contact with the family. A discussion occurred with the agency supervisor several times throughout this process.

Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:

There wasn't any children and youth involvement prior to the incident.

Circumstances of Child Near Fatality and Related Case Activity:

York County Office of Children, Youth and Families (YCOCYF) received a [REDACTED] Child Protective Services (CPS) report [REDACTED] on 10/12/2017. The report stated that the victim child was in critical condition and [REDACTED] at Hershey Medical Center. It was reported that the child was picked up in New York on Monday, 10/09/2017 between 10:00 PM – 12:00 AM from his paternal uncle. The paternal uncle was bringing the child to Pennsylvania to visit family. It

was reported that the child spent part of Tuesday in ██████████, Pennsylvania with his paternal uncle and paternal aunt. The paternal uncle reported that the child fell down about four steps; the child slid on his stomach and bumped his head. The paternal uncle reported the child was fine after the fall. The paternal uncle then reported that he drove the child from ██████████, Pennsylvania to ██████████, Pennsylvania to visit the paternal uncle's grandmother. The paternal uncle reported that he and the child spent Tuesday evening in ██████████ and the child was fine.

The next morning, the paternal uncle reported that he and the child traveled back to ██████████ to visit the paternal uncle's god sister and that is when the paternal uncle noticed the child acting strangely. The paternal uncle reported that he and his sister, the child's paternal aunt, took the child to ██████████ Mall to buy the child an outfit for his birthday and then returned to ██████████. The paternal uncle reported that he and the child slept in the back seat during the ride back to the grandmother's home in ██████████. They arrived at approximately 8:00 PM at the grandmother's home and it was reported that the child was lethargic and would not open his eyes. The child was taken to the York Hospital where he ██████████ ██████████ and then transferred to Hershey Medical Center.

The attending physician reported that she did not know what was wrong with the child. There was no sign of physical abuse, ██████████ ██████████ that could not be explained.

YCOCYF contacted ██████████ Police Department and notified them of the incident. The detective along with YCOCYF arrived at the hospital to see the victim child and interviewed both the paternal uncle and the mother on 10/13/2017.

The paternal uncle reported that the child's father is currently incarcerated in federal prison ██████████. The paternal uncle explained that he drove to New York to pick up the child on Monday, 10/9/2017 and arrived at the child's mother's home around 10:00 PM. The paternal uncle said that the child knows him as he has been around him since the child's mother was pregnant. The paternal uncle said that he left the home with the child around midnight to give the mother a break. The paternal uncle said that he arrived at his home in Pennsylvania around 2:00 AM on Tuesday morning, 10/10/2017. The paternal uncle reported that he changed the child's diaper as the child slept. The paternal uncle said that they woke up around 8:00 AM and went to get some food. The paternal uncle stated that they did some errands and that he was on snapchat and could show the photos from his phone that the child was fine. The paternal uncle also stated that the child fell that day. The paternal uncle said he was in the kitchen and thought the child was with him when the child was actually in the living room and had climbed up approximately four steps. The paternal uncle described the fall as the child slid on his belly and hit his forehead on the bottom step. The paternal uncle said he picked the child up and gave him some juice and the child seemed fine. The paternal uncle indicated that he called the child's mother to inform her of the accident. The paternal uncle explained that this was the first time the child was visiting with his "brother's mom's side of the family". The paternal uncle said that they visited different people that day and around 4:30 PM on Tuesday, 10/10/2017, they

arrived at the paternal uncle's grandmother's home in [REDACTED] where they slept that night. The next morning, 10/11/2017, they got up around 7:30 AM, had breakfast and then got dressed. The paternal uncle reported who they went to visit and gave approximate times. The paternal uncle said that he didn't notice the child acting strangely until around 3:00 PM – 3:30 PM that day. The paternal uncle said that he noticed the child's eye looked puffy and said that the child was playing with a small dog that day and the dog had scratched the child's face. The paternal uncle said that he then face timed with the mother because he was concerned with the child's eye. The paternal uncle said that the mother told him to "keep an eye" on the child [REDACTED]. The paternal uncle then said that the child touched a leaf on a plant next to the porch. It was reported that the mother told the paternal uncle that if the child touched the leaf, then put his hands in his mouth; the child could be having an allergic reaction to the leaf.

The paternal uncle said that the child fell asleep about 20 minutes prior to them going to the [REDACTED] Mall which was around 3:30 PM. The paternal uncle said that they wanted to get the child an outfit for his birthday. The paternal uncle commented that he stopped for gas on the way to the mall and at that time gave the child Benadryl that the mother packed for the child. The paternal uncle said that he gave the child the amount directed from the box. The paternal uncle said that they arrived at the mall around 5:00 PM and the child was still sleeping so he stayed in the car with the child while his sister went in the mall for the outfit. The paternal uncle said that the child would wake up and "whine" and then go back to sleep. The paternal uncle said that his sister drove back to [REDACTED] while he and the child slept. The paternal uncle said that the child started to cry but was not producing any tears. The paternal uncle said that he removed the child from his car seat and held him in the back seat for the remainder of the ride to [REDACTED]. The paternal uncle reported that they arrived in [REDACTED] around 8:00 PM at his grandmother's home. The paternal uncle called the child's mother who instructed the paternal uncle to take the child to the hospital.

The mother was then interviewed by the detective and YCOCYF. The mother had no direct knowledge of the incident other than confirming when the paternal uncle received the child from her. The mother reported that she rushed to the hospital from New York and arrived around 2:00 AM.

The child was admitted to the hospital [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] 10/15/2017 to the mother. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the child appeared happy and was walking around his room. The child's [REDACTED]

There was no known reason for [REDACTED] when he first arrived at the hospital. [REDACTED]

YCOCYF did reach out to New York State Office of Children and Family Services to inquire if the family had any involvement. YCOCYF did receive documentation back from New York State Office of Children and Family Services that verified the family had no child welfare involvement.

On 11/08/2017, YCOCYF unfounded the CPS report. The police department also closed their investigation without any charges being filed. YCOCYF learned that the mother and child relocated to the state of Georgia to reside with the child's maternal grandmother.

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

York County Office of Children, Youth and Families did not convene a review team as the report was unfounded before the 30th day. As such, a County Child Near-Fatality report was not completed.

Department Review of County Internal Report:

York County Office of Children, Youth and Families unfounded the paternal uncle on 11/08/2017 which was before the 30th day as such an Act 33 meeting was not held.

Department of Human Services Findings:

- County Strengths:
 - The agency responded and communicated well with New York State Office of Children and Family Services.

 - The agency responded to the referral by seeing the victim child and family members at the hospital.

 - Agency personnel communicated well with law enforcement.
 - The agency conducted a timely investigation.

- County Weaknesses: and
 - None noted

- Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance by the County Agency.
 - During the review of the file, the agency was found to be in compliance with statutory requirements.

Department of Human Services Recommendations:

The department does not have any recommendations at this time.