



## REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:

[REDACTED]

Date of Birth: 06/22/2017  
Date of Incident: 09/14/2017  
Date of Report to ChildLine: 09/14/2017  
CWIS Referral ID: [REDACTED]

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

Philadelphia Department of Human Services

**REPORT FINALIZED ON:**  
09/06/2018

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.

Philadelphia County has convened a review team in accordance with the Child Protective Services Law related to this report. The county review team was convened on 10/06/2017.

**Family Constellation:**

<u>First and Last Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
██████████	victim child	06/22/2017
██████████	biological mother	██████████ 1995
██████████	biological father	██████████ 1995

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

The Southeast Regional Office of Children, Youth and Families (SERO) was in attendance at the county review team meeting which convened on 10/06/2017. SERO obtained and reviewed current documentation pertaining to the case.

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

The family was not known to Philadelphia Department of Human Services prior to this near fatality.

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

On 09/14/2017, the Philadelphia Department of Human Services received a child protective services (CPS) report stating the victim child almost died on 09/14/2017 as a result of a subdural hematoma, bilateral retinal hemorrhages, rib fractures, a femur fracture and injuries in both forearms. On 09/14/2017, the victim child was taken to ██████████ by her parents unresponsive and seizing. Test revealed that the victim child suffered a subdural hematoma which was suspected to be the result of non-accidental trauma. Victim child was transferred to ██████████ for continued care. The victim child’s parents reported that she was in the care of biological father and two other household adults before being hospitalized that day and both parents denied that the victim child suffered any trauma.

Biological father’s account of what occurred prior to the victim child’s hospitalization was; that he did not have formula for the victim child and biological mother did not pump any breast milk for the victim child because she has been having difficulty

producing milk. Biological father took the victim child to one of the household adult's to look after the child while he went to the store to get a can of carnation milk. Biological father reported that the victim child was crying a lot due to being hungry and biological father and biological mother thought that it could have also been due to the victim child receiving immunizations. During this time biological mother was at work, but she fed the victim child prior to leaving for work at 9:00AM. When biological father returned from the store he tried to give the victim child a bottle and she would not eat. Biological father called the biological mother around 7:00PM or 8:00PM and she then asked a maternal aunt to meet her at the house because she did not know what to expect. When biological mother arrived, the victim child was stiff and her legs were straight out. Biological mother did not know that her child was having a seizure until they arrived at the hospital. Child was discharged from the hospital on 12/22/2017 and currently resides with her maternal great aunt [REDACTED] and is receiving services from [REDACTED].

There were three named alleged perpetrators including the biological father and two household members. However, the two household members were removed as alleged perpetrators due to both biological mother and biological father denying that anyone other than them provided care for victim child. This placed biological father as the sole caretaker at the time of the incident. This case was indicated on biological father on 10/17/2017 and biological father was arrested on 09/14/2017 and charged with criminal attempt-criminal homicide, aggravated assault, endangering the welfare of a child, simple assault and recklessly endangering another person.

Law enforcement involvement in this case is on-going.

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

- Strengths in compliance with statutes, regulations and services to children and families;

Philadelphia County MDT SWSM effectively conducted the investigation and coordinated well with Special Victims Unit of the Philadelphia Police Department.

- Deficiencies in compliance with statutes, regulations and services to children and families;

Education should be offered to assist parents in their search for appropriate caregivers for their child/children.

- Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on reducing the likelihood of future child fatalities and near fatalities directly related to abuse;

None noted

- Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on monitoring and inspection of county agencies; and

None noted

- Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on collaboration of community agencies and service providers to prevent child abuse.

None noted

### **Department Review of County Internal Report:**

The Department does not have any concerns with report.

### **Department of Human Services Findings:**

- County Strengths:

Philadelphia County conducted a good investigation.

- County Weaknesses: and

None noted

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

None noted

### **Department of Human Services Recommendations:**

The Department recommends that pamphlets are given to all parents at the delivering hospital stressing the importance of having appropriate caregivers accessible when needed if needed to support them with watching their child/children.