



REPORT ON THE FATALITY OF:

Ibn-Kareem Lawson

Date of Birth: 03/23/2015
Date of Incident: 11/09/2017
Date of Report to ChildLine: 11/10/2017
CWIS Referral ID: [REDACTED]

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

Philadelphia Department of Human Services

REPORT FINALIZED ON:
10/17/2018

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.

The review team was not convened due to the case being unfounded within 30 days by Philadelphia County.

Family Constellation:

<u>First and Last Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
Ibn Kareem Lawson	Victim child	03/23/2015
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] 1982
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] 1980
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] 1948
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] 1957
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] 1999

Summary of OCYF Child Fatality Review Activities:

The Southeast Regional Office of Children, Youth, and Families (SERO) reviewed current documentation pertaining to the case.

Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:

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

Circumstances of Child Fatality and Related Case Activity:

On 11/10/2017 the Philadelphia Department of Human Services received [REDACTED] [REDACTED] stating that victim child died on 11/09/2017 as a result of a gunshot to his head. On 11/09/2017 it was reported that [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was in the driveway, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were on the second floor and [REDACTED] was in the basement taking a shower. The victim child reportedly was in the basement and picked up a gun which was presumed to have been out in the open and shot himself. It was then reported that [REDACTED] hid the gun in a trash can. According to the Detective on this case, it was unknown who the gun belonged to, but testing would be done to verify. There were no arrests being made due to district attorney not pressing charges.

██████████, however, was being processed for lock-up due to a warrant for narcotics from 2016.

██████████ account of what occurred began with ██████████ and ██████████ going to the store to grab food for everyone and then going to the smoke shop to get cigarettes. When they returned to the house, ██████████ heard ██████████ scream "why God why". ██████████ rushed into the house to find blood everywhere and ██████████ holding the victim child. ██████████ was informed that the victim child shot himself. ██████████ stated that the bullet went into victim child's forehead and out on the top of his frontal lobe. ██████████ father took the victim child from ██████████ and wrapped something around his head due to the bleeding. ██████████ continued to scream and cry, pleading for someone to call 911. ██████████ transported the victim child to ██████████ where the victim child was alert and awake until they got to triage. ██████████ reports that the victim child stopped fighting as soon as ██████████ was told to leave the room.

An agreement reached by the family and county ██████████ ██████████ and he was to turn 18 years old in about 2 weeks after the incident. This investigation was determined to be ██████████ on 11/28/2017 due to the incident being an accidental shooting. The county conducted interviews with ██████████ and worked with the police who made the determination the incident an accidental shooting. According to law enforcement, the firearm belonged to ██████████ who is currently incarcerated for a prior crime. There was no information to support that the caregivers had knowledge that the firearm was in the home.

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

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

Philadelphia County Multi-Disciplinary Team Social Work Service Manager 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;

None noted

- 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 the 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 report was completed within 30 days no report completed by Philadelphia County

Department of Human Services Findings:

- County Strengths:

Philadelphia County conducted a good investigation in conjunction with Law Enforcement.

- 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 issuing a public service announcement regarding proper storage of firearms to assist in preventing accidental shootings.