



REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:



Date of Birth: 01/14/2019
Date of Incident: 01/14/2019
Date of Report to ChildLine: 01/14/2019
CWIS Referral ID: [REDACTED]

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

Lancaster County Children and Youth Services

REPORT FINALIZED ON:

07/25/2019

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. 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.

Lancaster County Children and Youth has convened a review team in accordance with the CPSL related to this report. The review team convened on 01/23/2019.

Family Constellation:

<u>First and Last Name</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
[REDACTED]	Victim Child	01/14/2019
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED]/1995
[REDACTED]	Maternal Great Uncle	[REDACTED]/1985

Summary of OCYF Child Fatality Review Activities:

The Central Region Office of Children, Youth and Families obtained and reviewed the entire family file. The Central Region reviewed all of the structured case notes, safety and risk assessments, medical records, and other case specific information provided by Lancaster County Children and Youth Services (LCCYS).

Summary of Circumstances Prior to Incident:

The family had no prior involvement with Lancaster County Children and Youth.

Circumstances of Child Fatality and Related Case Activity:

On 01/14/2019, the mother gave birth to the victim child in a toilet at her place of employment and left the child submerged in the toilet. Mother called a coworker for assistance and the coworker called emergency medical services (EMS). When law enforcement arrived, the victim child was in the toilet with the umbilical cord still attached to the mother. The victim child was blue and not breathing and cardiopulmonary resuscitation was performed by law enforcement and EMS. The mother and the victim child were transported to the hospital. The victim child presented with severe hypothermia and respiratory inadequacy and was listed in

critical condition. The victim child remained on life support for two days and was hospitalized for six days.

The victim child was taken into protective custody by LCCYS on 01/16/2019. The victim child was discharged from the hospital on 01/20/2019 and is currently residing in a kinship home through LCCYS. The victim child continues to receive ongoing medical care through [REDACTED] Mother and the father of the victim child do not desire to be reunification resources for this child so LCCYS is providing adoption services to the child.

LCCYS learned through their investigation that the [REDACTED]

Mother is from Ghana and came to the United States in May 2018. Mother has a [REDACTED] child that resides with her family in Ghana. LCCYS had no previous involvement with the mother.

LCCYS indicated this report on 03/14/2019. This report was founded on 04/02/2019 as the mother pled guilty to one count of endangering the welfare of a child.

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:

- An appropriate response time was assigned and the Agency met with the mother and child within 24 hours.
- The Agency provided a clear sequence of events to the Act 33 committee.
- The Agency completed Safety and Risk Assessments on the family to help guide their practice.
- The child's safety could not be assured and the Agency petitioned for custody. He was taken into custody on 01/16/2019.
- A collaborative investigation has occurred for this case between the police, hospital and medical staff and Children and Youth Agency.
- A CAPTA referral was made as per regulation. The child will need to be monitored to ensure normal development. [REDACTED]

- It was noted that during the Children and Youth interview with the mother on 01/15/2019, the mother stated that she did not understand what the

caseworker was asking her. It was unclear if the Agency explored potential language barriers. (During a review of the case contacts by CPS Supervisor [REDACTED], it was noted that the interview with the mother was completed in English and only after the mother admitted to wrongdoing did she feign a possible misunderstanding of what was being explained to her. The mother communicated in English throughout the entire investigation, per supervisory review).

- The family was accepted for ongoing services.

Deficiencies in compliance with statutes, regulations, and services to children and families: None

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

Although a lengthy discussion occurred during the ACT 33 meeting, the committee was unable to make any recommendation for change. Lancaster County has many [REDACTED] that could have benefited the mother if she would have been receptive to receiving them. It was learned through the investigation that the mother [REDACTED]

Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on monitoring and inspection of county agencies: None

Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on collaboration of community agencies and service providers to prevent child abuse: None

Department Review County Internal Report:

The Central Region Office received Lancaster County's Child Fatality Team Report on 06/18/2019. The Central Region finds Lancaster County's internal report to be an accurate reflection of the Act 33 meeting which was held on 01/23/2019.

Department of Human Services Findings:

- County Strengths:
LCCYS responded to the hospital within 24 hours of the report.

LCCYS worked collaboratively with the police department and hospital staff during the investigation.

LCCYS is providing ongoing services to the family.

- County Weaknesses: None
- Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance: None

Department of Human Services Recommendations:

No recommendations at this time.