



## **REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:**

[REDACTED]

**Date of Birth: 11/06/2015**  
**Date of Incident: 03/28/2017**  
**Date of Report to ChildLine: 03/28/2017**  
**CWIS Referral ID: [REDACTED]**

### **FAMILY KNOWN TO COUNTY CHILDREN AND YOUTH AGENCY AT TIME OF INCIDENT OR WITHIN THE PRECEDING 16 MONTHS:**

Lycoming County Children and Youth Services

**REPORT FINALIZED ON:  
08/07/2017**

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.

Lycoming County was not required to convene a review team in accordance with the Child Protective Services Law related to this report. Lycoming County Children and Youth Services unfounded the report on 04/12/2017.

**Family Constellation:**

<u>First and Last Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
[REDACTED]	Son (victim child)	11/06/2015
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED] 1989
[REDACTED]	Father	[REDACTED] 1992
[REDACTED]	Maternal Half Sister	[REDACTED] 2007
[REDACTED]	Paternal Half Sister	[REDACTED] 2012
[REDACTED]	Paternal Half Sister	[REDACTED] 2014

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

The Central Region Office of Children, Youth and Families (CROCYF) reviewed case records pertaining to the [REDACTED] family. CROCYF representative engaged Lycoming County Children and Youth Services' (CYS) Quality Improvement Specialist to discuss the incident and the subsequent findings.

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

Lycoming County CYS informed CROCYF that the agency had prior involvement with the family. On 12/06/2011, the agency received a General Protective Services (GPS) report from an anonymous source regarding [REDACTED], victim child's maternal half-sister, who was residing with her mother. Allegations included poor home conditions, parenting concerns, and that the child was not being sent to school regularly. During a home visit, the responding caseworker found the home conditions to be acceptable and the child (age 4 at the time of the GPS) was not yet enrolled in school. The Caseworker engaged the mother about parenting and there were no identified concerns. The allegations were unsubstantiated and not assigned for further assessment.

The CYs agency received another GPS report on 06/08/2012. An anonymous reporting source alleged that the mother of [REDACTED] was driving an unregistered vehicle, poor home conditions, and the child had contracted head lice which was preventing the child's school attendance. Since the concerns were similar to the previous GPS and that the allegations were not assessed as child abuse/neglect, the report was screened out.

On 9/15/2016, Lycoming County CYs received a request from Northampton County CYs to conduct a courtesy home visit. Two of the victim child's half siblings, [REDACTED], and their biological mother had an active/open case in Northampton County. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The courtesy visit was completed, and the assigned caseworker did not identify any concerns.

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

The victim child was taken to University of Pittsburgh Medical Center's (UPMC) Susquehanna [REDACTED] via ambulance due to ingesting [REDACTED]. The medical facility is located in [REDACTED] PA. The victim child's father initially reported that he had previously had dental work completed [REDACTED]. The father reported finding one of pills on the floor and proceeded to place it on a night stand in the bedroom. The child's mother stated that she was taking the child to the bedroom for a nap and that child wanted to play with toys on the floor so she placed him on the carpet. The mother then saw the child chewing on something and making a face. She also noticed that whatever he had in his mouth was pink. She informed the father who said it was the pill he had put on the stand. The child's mother reported she wiped out the child's mouth and immediately called 911 in order for the child to be transported to the nearest hospital. Upon arrival at the ER, the child's vitals and pupils were normal. When the father was asked [REDACTED], he admitted that he had actually received two [REDACTED] pills from a friend. [REDACTED] personnel researched for the pink pill and it was determined that pill was [REDACTED]. The child was admitted to the hospital [REDACTED]. The child [REDACTED] on 03/30/2017 and follow up visits with a pediatrician indicated that the child is doing well medically.

On the day of the incident, the parents made arrangements for the victim child's half-sisters to stay with relatives in two different households. A Lycoming County CYs Caseworker responded to the homes where the children were staying to assure safety, and an Intake Worker notified the [REDACTED] Bureau of Police of the incident. Agent [REDACTED] with the [REDACTED] police force was assigned the case. Due to scheduling difficulties, a joint interview was not possible between the [REDACTED] police officer and the CYs Caseworker. The assigned Caseworker interviewed the parents separately and each party's description of how the incident occurred was congruent. It was identified that the father was experiencing pain due to a tooth ache three months prior to the incident. [REDACTED]

██████████, a friend offered him two of the ██████ pills. The father stated that he only ingested one of the pills. It was reported that he had misplaced the other pill, and only found it the day prior to the incident when he was searching for lighter on the floor and subsequently placed the pill on the night stand.

Due to the information forwarded from the CYS agency to the police officer assigned to the case, there is not a current criminal investigation involving the incident. The agent assigned the case stated that the Caseworker responsible for investigating the abuse report has been employed by the CYS agency for quite a long time and that her opinions and findings are viewed as credible by the police department. Lycoming County CYS unfounded the abuse report on 04/12/2017 reasoning that the concerns were not substantiated in that the child was playing on the floor and accidentally ingested the pill and that the parents of the victim child immediately sought medical attention for their son. The family was then notified that services would not be initiated for the family.

**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

NA

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

NA

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

NA

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

NA

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

NA

**Department Review of County Internal Report:**

NA

**Department of Human Services Findings:**

- County Strengths:

Lycoming County CYS's Quality Improvement Specialist continuously updated CROCYP on the status of the investigation and she responded immediately to inquiries initiated by CROCYP representative.

Lycoming County CYS immediately engaged [REDACTED] Bureau of Police and shared relevant information with the police department.

- County Weaknesses:

At the time of this report, CROCYP has not identified any County weaknesses.

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

At the time of this report, CROCYP has not identified areas of regulatory non-compliance.

**Department of Human Services Recommendations:**

The CROCYP has no recommendations in regards to this incident.