



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:



Date of Birth: 5/15/13
Date of Incident: 12/21/13
Date of Oral Report: 12/21/13

REPORT FINALIZED ON:
June 25, 2015

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:

Senate Bill 1147, Printer’s Number 2159 was signed into law on July 3, 2008. The bill became effective on December 30, 2008 and is known as Act 33 of 2008. As part of Act 33 of 2008, DPW must conduct a review and provide a written report of all cases of suspected child abuse that result in a child 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.

Act 33 of 2008 also requires that county children and youth agencies convene a review when a report of child abuse involving a child fatality or near fatality is indicated or when a status determination has not been made regarding the report within 30 days of the oral report to ChildLine. Delaware County Children and Youth Services convened a review team in accordance with Act 33 of 2008 related to this report on January 08, 2014.

Family Constellation:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth:</u>
██████████	Victim Child	05/15/13
██████████	Mother	██████████/92
██████████	Father	██████████/86
██████████	Sibling	██████████11

Notification of Child Near Fatality:

The incident occurred on 12/21/13 and the date of the oral report to the county agency is the same date. Delaware County Children and Youth Services, (CYS), received a referral ██████████. Injuries to the VC included ██████████. The attending physician ██████████ certified the VC to be in critical condition based on suspected abuse or neglect and the victim child (VC) was transported to Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). The report indicated that the VC was transported to the hospital by the paramedics and her father ██████████ (AP). The father said that the VC was lethargic at home because she may have possibly choked on a banana. The VC also had healing burns on all ten of her fingertips which the AP indicated were sustained when the VC touched a heater. The AP said that the mother treated the burns at home but took the VC to the emergency room at Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital a few days later when the wounds opened up. ██████████ CHOP reviewed the ██████████. Not knowing whether the VC would survive ██████████, the report was certified as a near fatality.

Summary of DPW Child Near Fatality Review Activities:

The South East Region Office of Children, Youth and Families obtained and reviewed all current information pertaining to the ██████████ family. The family was not involved with CYS at the time of the incident or in the 16 months prior to the incident.

SERO participated in the Act 33 Review on January 08, 2014 and collaborated at the meeting with representatives from the County: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the Police: [REDACTED] and Providers: [REDACTED]

Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:

The family had no prior history with CYS.

Circumstances of Child (Near) Fatality and Related Case Activity:

On December 21, 2013 Children and Youth Services of Delaware County (CYS) received a referral [REDACTED] indicating that the VC was brought to the hospital by paramedics and her father because the VC was acting lethargic at home and may have possibly choked on a banana. Upon examination it was noted that the VC had healing burns on all 10 of her fingers and [REDACTED] showed [REDACTED]. The attending physician suspected non-accidental trauma. The incident was certified as a Near Fatality. As a result of the seriousness of the VC's injuries, a reported history of domestic violence between her parents, [REDACTED] delay in seeking medical treatment for the fingertips injury and the AP access to the home, [REDACTED] after she was released from CHOP on 12/31/13. [REDACTED] were assigned to investigate the case and planned to arrest the AP after medical records were reviewed. No charges will be filed against [REDACTED] filed a PFA against the AP.

On 02/18/14 the CPS investigation was Indicated for serious physical abuse. The determination was made based on the [REDACTED] investigation (the AP was the only one caring for the child when the injury occurred) and medical evidence. The medical documentation [REDACTED] and that the VC had burns on all 10 fingertips.

Current Case Status:

- The [REDACTED] investigation determined that on 12/21/13 CYS received a referral [REDACTED] [REDACTED] that the VC had been brought to the hospital by EMS because she was lethargic at home and may have possibly choked on a banana.
- Medical examination determined the VC had [REDACTED] and burns on all 10 fingertips.
- The parents were interviewed and drug tested by CYS and tests were negative.
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- The [REDACTED] investigation determined that the Perpetrator, [REDACTED], inflicted the injuries to the VC; he was the primary caretaker for the VC at the time of the incident.
- A safety assessment was conducted and [REDACTED], paternal grandmother was named as the person to ensure that [REDACTED] has no unsupervised contact with either parent.
- [REDACTED]

- Services for the mother include [REDACTED], parenting and [REDACTED] classes.
- The mother was cleared of any wrong doing by [REDACTED] Police.

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

- Strengths: The investigation was completed in a timely and thorough manner in compliance with all statutes and regulations.

Department Review of County Internal Report:

The Southeast Office of Children Youth and Families obtained the family's Delaware County case information and the victim child's hospital medical records. A review of records and discussion of the same was held with the county's [REDACTED] caseworker and the victim child's family. The Southeast Region was an active participant in the Delaware County internal Act 33 near fatality review team. The Southeast Region received the County's Act 33 report on 03/19/14 and has reviewed it. The Department is in agreement with the findings.

Department of Public Welfare Findings:

- County Strengths:
The county provided follow up with public and private stake holders from the onset of the [REDACTED] and investigation.
- County Weaknesses:
None identified.
- Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance:
None identified.

Department of Public Welfare Recommendations:

Improved collaboration and communication between the various county agencies, specifically the County Children and Youth Agencies and providers could benefit the families of children especially when there are domestic violence issues.