



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:



Date of Birth: 09/10/2013
Date of Incident: 12/2/2013
Date of Oral Report: 12/2/2013

FAMILY NOT KNOWN TO:

Philadelphia Department of Human Services

REPORT FINALIZED ON:
06/09/2015

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 by Governor Edward G. Rendell. 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. Philadelphia County was not required to convene a review team as the case was Unfounded within the necessary time frame.

Family Constellation:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
[REDACTED]	Victim Child	[REDACTED]/13
[REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED]/10
[REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED]/95
[REDACTED]	Biological Mother	[REDACTED]/77
[REDACTED]	Biological Father	[REDACTED]/69

Notification of Child Near Fatality:

On 12/02/13 the Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS) received a report alleging that 3 month old victim child was admitted to the hospital [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Reportedly the child was sitting in a bouncy seat and the seat toppled over. Mother believes the child hit his head on the metal surrounding the seat. The child sustained a swelling to the right side of his head, [REDACTED]

The physician certified the child to be in critical condition based on suspected abuse. The victim child was expected to survive. The child was first taken to Lankenau Medical Center, and then transferred to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) via ambulance for further evaluation.

Summary of DPW Child Near Fatality Review Activities:

The Southeast Regional Office of Children, Youth and Families obtained and reviewed all case documentation, and documents pertaining to the report. Contact was made with the DHS case worker to obtain the documents listed below:

- Plan and referral for [REDACTED]
- Safety Assessment
- Medical Records
- CY48

Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:

The family did not have prior involvement with the Department of Human Services.

Circumstances of Child Near Fatality and Related Case Activity:

On 12/02/13 DHS received a report alleging that the victim child was admitted to Lankenau Medical Center, [REDACTED] and then transferred to CHOP via ambulance for further evaluation. The reporter indicated that the child was sitting in a bouncy seat on the hard tile floor and toppled over. The biological mother reported that the baby hit his head on a piece of metal surrounding the bouncy seat. The child sustained an injury that resulted in a swelling to the right side of his head, [REDACTED]

The biological mother reported that the incident happened around 11:00 a.m. on 12/02/13. She stated that she changed her son's diaper while he was seated in the bouncy chair. According to the mother, she ensured that the baby was strapped into the seat before she turned away to throw away the dirty diaper. The mother's back was facing her son as she went to dispose of the dirty diaper. Immediately when she turned around, the child allegedly had toppled out and the seat had flipped over on to the floor. The incident happened in the kitchen area of the home. She ran to turn the chair upright and noticed swelling and redness on the side of the baby's head. The biological mother unstrapped the child from the chair; no other injuries were observed.

The injury was initially thought to be non-accidental by Lankenau staff who conducted the initial health assessment. After the child was transferred to CHOP, the diagnosis was confirmed; however the injuries were assessed to be consistent with the biological's mother account of his toppling over in his bouncy seat.

The victim child was transferred to the hospital by his biological mother and her oldest step daughter. The biological mother also made the godfather aware that the child had toppled over in the bouncy seat and that he needed to go to the hospital. The family has a store front property and business; they live on the second level of the building. The oldest step daughter also has lived on the third floor where there is an apartment. According to the biological mother, most of the family members work in the store and that someone was usually nearby.

While at Lankenau Medical Center, images were taken of the victim child's head and body; he was then transferred to CHOP [REDACTED] At CHOP the biological mother was approached by staff, informing her that [REDACTED] would be involved, and that she would have to be interviewed by a social worker from the Department of Human Services.

The biological mother has said that the child has sat in the seat many times before and has never fallen or been injured. Mother reports that he is very active and is attempting to roll over, and perhaps his movement in the seat tipped it over. The biological mother stated that he has never had an injury, although, she is the primary care giver, the stepdaughter sometimes babysits the child. The biological mother has no concerns or reason to believe that any of the family members would intentionally harm the child.

DHS conducted and completed their investigation and determined it to be unfounded. The CY48 was completed on 12/26/13. Both parents were interviewed. The mother was interviewed on 12/3/13 at CHOP, and the father was interviewed on 12/20/13 at the family's current address. He was out of the country when the incident occurred. Collateral contacts initiated by the DHS social worker included: CHOP social worker, the reporting source at [REDACTED] and staff [REDACTED] Medical Center, where the child attended a follow up medical appointment.

Current Case Status:

The victim child [REDACTED] care of his biological mother on 12/04/13. No further follow-up medical care was recommended, aside from attending routine well baby appointments with his pediatrician.

[REDACTED] Services were being provided by [REDACTED] and began on 12/20/13 to assist the parents with appropriate resources as needed and to provided child safety training.

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

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. Philadelphia County was not required to convene a review as the case was Unfounded within the appropriate time frames.

Department of Public Welfare Findings:

County Strengths:

- The County presented all required documents to OCYF for completion of full review of the case.
- Philadelphia DHS caseworker and supervisor worked effectively and efficiently, coordinated and followed up with essential staff at the Lankenau Medical Center and CHOP.

County Weaknesses:

- None identified

Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance:

- None identified

Department of Public Welfare Recommendations:

Continued training for emergency medical personnel at all medical settings regarding assessing children's injuries related to potential incidents of child abuse would be beneficial.