



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

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



**Date of Birth: 05/05/2013**  
**Date of Incident: 10/10/2013**  
**Date of Oral Report: 10/11/2013**

### **FAMILY NOT KNOWN TO:**

Cumberland County Children and Youth Services

### **REPORT FINALIZED ON:**

6/23/2014

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 Child Line 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 Child Line. Cumberland County has convened a review team in accordance with Act 33 of 2008 related to this report.

**Family Constellation:**

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth:</u>
[REDACTED]	Victim Child	05/05/2013
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED] 1999
[REDACTED]	Grandmother	[REDACTED] 1971
[REDACTED]	Step Grandfather	[REDACTED] 1974
[REDACTED]	Mother's Paramour	[REDACTED] 1994

**Notification of Child (Near) Fatality:**

The agency received a child abuse referral on 10/11/2013 from [REDACTED]. Carson was living with his mother in York County but on this particular day he was being cared for by [REDACTED] mom's paramour in [REDACTED] Cumberland County. The mother, victim child and [REDACTED] presented to Holy Spirit Hospital at 7:00 pm on 10/10/2013 initially with concerns about bruising and swelling of [REDACTED] face. The hospital staff was told by mom and [REDACTED] that the baby had fallen. The child was diagnosed with a [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] The case was transferred to [REDACTED] due to the nature of the injuries that the child sustained.

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

The Central Region Office of Children, Youth and Families obtained and reviewed all current and past case records pertaining to the [REDACTED] family. Follow up interviews were conducted with the Caseworker, [REDACTED] the Supervisor [REDACTED] and the Agency [REDACTED] on October 11, 2013 and November 6, 2013. The regional office also participated in the County Internal Fatality Review Team meetings on November 6, 2013 where copies of newspaper articles concerning the case were presented.

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

There was no prior involvement with Cumberland County Children and Youth Services.

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

The mother, victim child and [REDACTED] presented to Holy Spirit Hospital at 7:00 pm on 10/10/2013 initially with concerns about bruising and swelling of [REDACTED] face. The hospital staff was told by mom and [REDACTED] that the baby had fallen. The child was transferred to [REDACTED] due to the nature of the injuries that the child sustained. Mother's paramour, [REDACTED] was babysitting the child in [REDACTED], Cumberland County and caused significant injury to the child to include [REDACTED]

The agency received a child abuse referral on 10/11/2013. The child remained at [REDACTED] for one week. Child was placed in foster care through [REDACTED] when [REDACTED] on 10/21/2013. The child remains on the [REDACTED] Agency involvement is ongoing. The case was opened for services on 10/11/2013. The father's identity is unknown at this time so paternal family members cannot be explored. The mother refuses to identify [REDACTED] father. The mother was aware that her paramour had caused an injury several days prior to this incident, however allowed him to care for the child on the date of the incident. Mother told the caseworker that the AP had spanked the child because the child would not go to sleep.

**Current Case Status:**

Child was placed in foster care through [REDACTED] when [REDACTED] on 10/21/2013. Mother's behavior towards the child was distant and unresponsive. Mother was observed at the hospital with the baby. When the child needed comforting the mother did not step forward to do the comforting. Mother continues to believe that the injuries to the child were accidental.

The child is involved in [REDACTED] The mother is being provided [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. Mother is in the process of completing the [REDACTED] assessment and has been agreeable to the requirements that have been imposed.

The mother's paramour [REDACTED] is incarcerated. He has hired his own attorney and his bail was set at \$100,000. He has been criminally charged and is awaiting trial. [REDACTED] has been charged with aggravated assault and endangering the welfare of a child among other charges.

Both mother and her paramour were indicated of child abuse on 12/6/2013 by Cumberland County Children and Youth Services. The male perpetrator's actions resulted in the child having [REDACTED]

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

- Strengths: The County responded in a quick and concise manner to concerns regarding [REDACTED]. The County is working with the mother as well as the victim child to ensure the best outcome for everyone.
- Deficiencies: None
- Recommendations for Change at the Local Level:  
Relatively young mothers seem to have particular difficulties relating to parenting. While they receive the video on shaken baby syndrome, the video does not necessarily include the father or the paramour. Abuse awareness needs to be offered to all caretakers.
- Recommendations for Change at the State Level:  
None

**Department Review of County Internal Report:**

County report was received and accepted on March 24, 2014. Relatively young mothers seem to have particular difficulties relating to parenting. While they receive the video on shaken baby syndrome, the video showing does not necessarily include the father or the paramour. Abuse awareness needs to be offered to all caretakers. The state concurs with all recommendations.

**Department of Public Welfare Findings:**

- County Strengths:
- Cumberland County Children, Youth and Family Services conducted a thorough and timely investigation in conjunction with the law enforcement officials. Safety assessments were completed. Referrals for services were completed and necessary services were coordinated for the family.
- County Weaknesses:  
None
- Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance:  
None

**Department of Public Welfare Recommendations:**

Cumberland County Children, Youth and Family Services conducted a thorough and timely investigation in conjunction with the law enforcement officials. Safety assessments were completed. Referrals for services were completed and necessary services were coordinated for the family.