



REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:

[REDACTED]

Date of Birth: 05/24/2015
Date of Incident: 05/28/2016
Date of Report to ChildLine: 05/29/2016
CWIS Referral ID: [REDACTED]

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

Warren County Children and Youth Services

REPORT FINALIZED ON:
November 7, 2016

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.

Warren County Children and Youth Services (CYS) has not convened a review team in accordance with the Child Protective Services Law related to this report. Warren County completed the investigation on 06/21/2016, filing an unfounded determination. The unfounded determination was made within 30 days of the date of report, therefore negating a reason for review.

Family Constellation:

<u>First and Last Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
	Victim Child	05/24/2015
	Sibling	 2014
	Sibling	 2011
	Biological Mother	Unknown
	Biological Father	Unknown
	Paternal Uncle	Unknown

Summary of OCYF Child (Near) Fatality Review Activities:

The Western Region Office of Children, Youth and Families (WRO) obtained and reviewed all current records pertaining to the  family. WRO staff reviewed various reports, assessments, and case documentation provided by Warren County.

Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:

The  family did not have involvement with any county children and youth agency prior to the incident.

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

On 05/28/2016, the  family was visiting with relatives for an auction to raise money to assist the biological mother and father finish building their house. The victim child, along with many other related children, were cared for by teenage nieces who were visiting from out of town. The victim child was in the home of the uncle where children are not usually present. The biological mother and father were not in direct proximity of the victim child. The victim child crawled over to the sink and obtained a can of kerosene from under the sink. According to the Uncle,

this is a can that is used to bring kerosene inside to start a fire. It is emptied after each fire is started. The biological mother, father, and uncle report the can only contained a few drops of kerosene. It is unknown if the victim child ingested fumes, liquid, or both however he began showing difficulty with breathing. The biological mother and father immediately attempted to give the victim child milk to reduce the symptoms. When this did not help, the victim child was driven to Warren General Hospital and subsequently life-flighted to Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh. The biological mother and father report leaving the house within three minutes of the child ingesting kerosene.

Warren County CYS requested a courtesy visit from Allegheny County Children, Youth and Families (ACCYS). Allegheny obtained some information from the biological parents. The biological mother and father were upset the child was flown despite their objections due to religious beliefs (The █████ family is Amish). Allegheny was informed of two other siblings that were being cared for by relatives while the biological mother and father were in Pittsburgh. The biological parents would not provide names, dates of birth, or whereabouts of the two siblings.

Warren County CYS completed two unannounced home visits while the victim child and biological parents were in Pittsburgh. In addition, Warren County CYS made several contacts to Children's Hospital between the victim child's arrival on 05/29/2016 and █████ on 06/04/2016. On 06/07/2016 Warren County CYS made an unannounced visit, at which time an appointment was scheduled the next day due to the biological father's unavailability. Warren County CYS was able to interview the biological mother, father, and uncle on 06/08/2016 to verify statements. The family reported that the child will often play under the sink at their home; however they do not store kerosene under the sink. The child was reportedly recovering well and there appeared to be no physical damage.

On 06/22/2016 Warren County CYS submitted an unfounded determination for causing serious physical neglect of a child through an egregious failure to supervise. The County concluded that there was supervision by the one adult (the uncle) in the home at the time of the incident. In addition, the family was unaware there was a can of kerosene under the sink.

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; Warren County was not required to submit a county report.
- Deficiencies in compliance with statutes, regulations and services to children and families; Warren County was not required to submit a county report.
- Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on reducing the likelihood of future child fatalities and near fatalities directly related to abuse; Warren County was not required to submit a county report.

- Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on monitoring and inspection of county agencies; Warren County was not required to submit a county report.
- Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on collaboration of community agencies and service providers to prevent child abuse; Warren County was not required to submit a county report.

Department Review of County Internal Report:

Warren County did not submit a county internal report as the report was unfounded within 30 days of the date of report.

Department of Human Services Findings:

- County Strengths:
 - The agency responded in a timely manner and obtained a courtesy visit from ACCYS.
 - The agency made two attempts to locate the victim child’s siblings despite not knowing the whereabouts of the children.
 - The agency complied with all report and investigation timelines.
 - The agency made several contacts to Children’s Hospital and ACCYS to ascertain information regarding the family and child’s condition.
 - The agency demonstrated significant understanding and respect for cultural issues during the course of the investigation.
- County Weaknesses: and
 - None Noted
- Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance by the County Agency.
 - None Noted

Department of Human Services Recommendations:

DHS offers the following recommendations to practice as a result of the findings of this review:

- Increased cultural awareness for agencies and facilities serving locally specialized populations to promote respect for cultural differences.