



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

**REPORT ON THE FATALITY OF:**  
**Navasia Shalynn Handy-Green**

**Date of Birth: 10/07/2010**  
**Date of Death: 01/13/2013**  
**Date of Oral Report: 1/12/2013**

**FAMILY KNOWN TO:**

**Montgomery County Children and Youth Services**

**REPORT FINALIZED ON:**  
**September 26, 2013**

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. Montgomery County has convened a review team in accordance with Act 33 of 2008 related to this report. The Act 33 meeting was held in Montgomery County on 02/11/13.

**Family Constellation:**

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth:</u>
Navasia Handy-Green	Victim Child	10/07/10
██████████	Kinship Parent	██████████/74
██████████	House hold member	██████████/00
██████████	Perpetrator	██████████/86
██████████*	Daughter of perpetrator	20 years old

\*Attends Bloomsburg University full time, returns for school breaks

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

On 01/13/13, Montgomery County received a call ██████████ concerning the victim child. The Southeast Regional Office of The Department of Public Welfare, Office of Children, Youth and Families (S.E. DPW-OCYF) received the report of ██████████ on 01/14/13. The report noted that the Kinship Mother left the home earlier in the day to go to the hospital. The Kinship Mother left the victim child with her niece ██████████ age 12 years old and her sister ██████████ age 26 years old. Ms. ██████████ is mentally challenged and functions at the age of a 5-6 year old child. While the Kinship Mother was at the hospital, the victim child was brought into the hospital emergency room and pronounced dead. The Montgomery County Detectives stated that the child died from blunt force trauma inflicted by the alleged perpetrator (AP). The AP admitted to injuring the victim child. The reason is unknown.

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

The S.E. Regional Office of DPW-OCYF received the ██████████ regarding this case on 01/14/13. The preliminary investigation form was completed by DPW-OCYF on 01/13/13. The Act 33 meeting was attended by DPW-OCYF on 02/11/13. Due to the nature of the child death, Montgomery County Detectives instructed all agencies not to interview the family members and

the alleged perpetrator during this investigation. The victim child's biological family record and the victim child's foster care record were both reviewed by DPW-OCYF on 02/04/13.

**Summary of Services to Family:**

The family of [REDACTED] was offered [REDACTED] services. They have not accepted at this time. The family appears to be functioning as well as could be expected following such a traumatic and tragic event. [REDACTED] was relocated to her biological father's home. He has a paramour, and they will help to ensure that all of [REDACTED] needs are met. Montgomery County C&Y (MCCY) has been coordinating with [REDACTED] in Trevoze, Pennsylvania to help her get back on her previous schedule. Prior to the incident, [REDACTED]

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

On 07/13/10 [REDACTED] was placed in the kinship foster home of [REDACTED] her aunt. [REDACTED] was discharged from Foster Care on 08/30/11 due to [REDACTED] being awarded Permanent Legal Custodianship (PLC).

The mother had numerous involvements with the MCCY. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The current case was referred in 2010. The mother was homeless [REDACTED]. When Navasia was born in October 2010, it was unknown if the mother had received any prenatal care. In January 2011, the county became aware that the mother was living with her son [REDACTED] and daughter, [REDACTED] in a home with no heat, food or furniture.

[REDACTED]

Navasia's sister, [REDACTED], was born in September 2011 while the mother was in a [REDACTED]. MCCY did not pursue custody of [REDACTED] at this time as the mother was actively [REDACTED]. MCCY created a Family Service Plan when the mother was [REDACTED] in October 2011; the goals focused on the parents retaining custody of [REDACTED] and reunification with Navasia. Goals identified were to obtain stable housing, address [REDACTED], regular visits with Navasia, engaging in [REDACTED]

From October 2011 through March 2012, MCCY monitored the parents' progress. The mother had not been compliant with her Family Service Plan goals; she could not maintain stable housing and continued to test positive for illegal substances. [REDACTED] was placed with a paternal aunt in March 2012.

After March 2012, the mother and [REDACTED] father made no progress towards their Family Service Plan goals. MCCY was never able to identify Navasia's birth father.

On June 26, 2012, Navasia was moved to the home of her maternal aunt, [REDACTED], her mother's maternal cousin.

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

On 01/09/2013, the Montgomery County CY adoption worker made a field visit to the Kinship/Pre-Adoptive home of [REDACTED]. This was the last time that she saw [REDACTED] alive. [REDACTED] was examined by her primary physician 01/11/13 for treatment of a cold. No other concerns were noted at that time.

The date of the incident was 01/12/13. The victim child was left alone with her Aunt [REDACTED] age 26 years old [REDACTED], and her cousin [REDACTED] age 12. The Kinship Mother, [REDACTED] had a family emergency and had go to a local hospital emergency room to check on a family member. At the time of her departure, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were allegedly in a bedroom watching television. [REDACTED] was in the home, but allegedly in another bedroom. At some point, [REDACTED] noticed that Navasia was sick or injured. She immediately called a family member who lived a short distance away. The family member rushed to the home and called 911 for help. Navasia was taken to the same hospital emergency room where her Aunt was tending to a family member. The child had suffered blunt force trauma to her stomach area. [REDACTED] subsequently admitted to harming Navasia. A clear reason could not be expressed. The [REDACTED] on 03/06/13 by The Department of Public Welfare South East Regional Office of Children, Youth and Families. The case [REDACTED].

### **Current Case Status:**

Montgomery County Detectives continue to investigate this matter. They are trying to ensure that they have a complete understanding of the [REDACTED] of [REDACTED], before they attempt to lodge or drop criminal charges against her. [REDACTED] left the home as part of the initial safety plan, and continues to live in her father's home.

██████████ continues to reside in the home at this time. She has not presented with any unusual problems or challenging behaviors at this time. Both ██████████ are participating in ██████████ through ██████████.

The foster home of Ms. ██████████ has been closed as she was open only as a resource for Navasia.

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

- Strengths:
- Montgomery County utilized the child's biological family and placed her in Kinship care.
- Montgomery County attempted to locate the child's biological Father by administering several DNA tests to possible fathers to no avail.
- Montgomery County was moving the child towards permanence, ██████████ ██████████.

- Deficiencies:  
When the Kinship parent left the home for an emergency, she did not make an appropriate plan for the supervision of Navasia.

- Recommendations for Change at the Local Level:
- Agency policy should be amended to require foster parents to identify family and non-family members who could be emergency caregivers for the foster children in their care.
- When young children are in the home, the Office of Developmental Disabilities should review with family members and other caretakers the need for consumers to be well supervised.

- Recommendations for Change at the State Level:

None at this time

**Department Review of County Internal Report:**

The Regional Office received and reviewed the county's report. The county provided a thorough history of the child's placement history.

**Department of Public Welfare Findings:**

- County Strengths:  
Montgomery County shared all relevant case information.  
The ACT 33 meeting was convened in a timely manner.
- County Weaknesses:  
Report from the Act 33 review was not shared in a timely manner; the Regional Office received it on 9/20/2013.

- Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance:  
None Noted

**Department of Public Welfare Recommendations:**

- The Office of Developmental Disabilities should stress with the families of their consumers the importance of monitoring and proper supervision when a mentally challenged person is in the home with small children. .