

Office of Children, Youth and Families

**Gabrielle Williams
Director
Central Region**

**1401 N. 7th St., 4th floor
Bertolino Bld.
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, 17105**

**717-772-7702
Fax: 717-772-7071**

REPORT ON THE NEAR DEATH OF



**DOB: 5/28/09
DATE OF NEAR DEATH 6/17/09**

Family was not known to Dauphin County Children and Youth

REPORT FINALIZED 02/08/10

This report is confidential under the provisions of the Child Protective Services Law and cannot be released.
(23 Pa. C.S. Section 6340)

Unauthorized release is prohibited under penalty of law. (23 Pa. C.S. Section 6349 (b)).

Reason for Review

Senate Bill No. 1147 now known as Act 33 was signed by Governor Rendell on July 3, 2008 and went into effect 180 days from that date, December 30, 2008. This Act amends the Child Protective Services Law (CPSL) and sets the standards for reviewing and reporting child fatalities and near child fatalities that were suspected to have occurred due to child abuse. DPW must conduct child fatality and near fatality reviews and provide a written report on any child fatality or near fatality where child abuse is suspected.

1. Family Constellation:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
[REDACTED]	Victim Child	5/28/09
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED] 1986
[REDACTED]	Father	[REDACTED] 1982
[REDACTED]	Brother	18 months old
[REDACTED]	Paternal grandmother	unknown
[REDACTED]	Maternal grandmother	unknown

Notification of Fatality/Near Fatality:

[REDACTED] The information received was that a child was brought into the emergency room at Hershey Medical Center after the mother took child to her pediatrician because, according to mom he wasn't eating right, not looking right and lethargic. Pediatrician called an ambulance and child was transported to Hershey Medical Center. Child was admitted to [REDACTED]. The child had a CAT scan, which showed [REDACTED].

Initial report [REDACTED] was that the father had the child on his chest while lying on the sofa and the child rolled off onto the floor.

2. Documentation Reviewed and Individuals Interviewed:

Central Region interviewed the [REDACTED] Intake Supervisor and reviewed the case file and file notes

Case Chronology:

Previous CY Involvement:

None

Circumstances of Child's Fatality or Near Fatality:

The father reported that he and his wife take turns staying with their 5 week old son while he sleeps at night in the pack and play located in the living room which allows the other parent to get some rest. He was responsible for the child on 6/16/09. He reported that child woke up around midnight and was given a bottle. Since the child was a little fussy, he decided to lay him on his chest while watching television. He fell asleep and the next thing he remembered was waking up and hearing the child crying while he was lying on the floor, which is approximately a 3-foot drop. This occurred at approximately 3 AM. He gave the child part of a bottle, settled him down and put him back in the pack and play. The next morning the child did not get up like he usually did but he assumed that he was just tired.

At 9:30 AM the child's mother, looked at the child and felt he didn't look right. She called the child's doctor, [REDACTED], and explained the child's symptoms, which were the child not getting up to eat as usual, the child having an unusual cry and the child appearing grayish in color. She was instructed to bring him in immediately to the office. Father took their oldest son to his grandmother's home while mother took the child to the doctor. She then notified father that the child was being transported via ambulance [REDACTED] to Hershey Medical Center and he should meet her there.

At the hospital, after the emergency room doctor told the parents that the child's injuries were non-accidental, father told his wife what had happened during the night and didn't say anything earlier to her because he didn't think anything wrong had happened. It wasn't until she called him to meet her at the hospital that he realized the seriousness of the incident and he was scared to say anything until confronted.

The child was admitted to the hospital with [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] Evaluations showed no other areas of concern and non-accidental injury was ruled out. At this point the only plausible explanation would be a fall from the couch. Because the floor was carpeted he did not receive any external injuries, but it was enough to jar his brain and cause bleeding

Current/Most Recent Status of Case:

[REDACTED]

The child was discharged on 6/29/09 to his mother's home with the help of his maternal grandmother. Father moved out of the home and stayed with his parents in Dillsburg.

The family was not opened for services by Dauphin County Children and Youth.

Services to Children and Families:

[REDACTED] for follow up appointments for the child.

Dauphin County Children and Youth did not provide the family with any services

County Strengths and Deficiencies as identified by the County's Near Fatality Report:

There was nothing in the case note dictation that suggests that an MDT occurred during the investigation. According to [REDACTED], intake supervisor, a portion of the file is missing which may have contained this information.

County Recommendations for changes at the Local Levels as identified by Fatality Report:

Central Region Findings:

The family did not feel the need for services and the case was closed on 8/13/09.

The family had no additional contact with the agency.

Statutory and Regulatory Compliance Issues:

A Safety Assessment was completed on 6/17/09. The caseworker met with the mother at the hospital. Neither she nor her husband could have unsupervised contact with either child. Mother was in agreement and reported that the older sibling is currently at his paternal grandparents and can remain there. Upon the child's release from the hospital, the maternal grandmother would take the child to live with her. Clearances were obtained for the paternal grandparents and a home visit conducted without exceptions.

Timeliness of Investigation- The agency completed their investigation in a timely manner as the agency received the [REDACTED] referral on 6/17/09 and completed the investigation on 8/13/09.

The caseworker interviewed the mother, father [REDACTED] and hospital staff responsible for [REDACTED] care. The caseworker also had ongoing contact with the District Attorney's Office and Harrisburg Police Department. Criminal charges of Reckless Endangering were not filed against father and the police investigation was closed.

A Risk Assessment was completed on 8/13/09 with Overall Severity as "No" as the child suffered no injuries as a result of abuse or neglect. The Overall Risk was determined as low. The child required some medical follow up, but there was adequate family support to care for both children.

The family was not opened for services as no ongoing services were necessary. The case was closed on 8/13/09.

[REDACTED] received follow up medical care with Hershey Medical Center.