



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

**OFFICE OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES**

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**REPORT ON THE DEATH OF**

**YEYDILYSS ACEVEDO**

**BORN: AUGUST 29, 1991**  
**DIED: FEBRUARY 28, 2009**

**FAMILY KNOWN TO:**  
**FAMILY NOT KNOWN TO ANY COUNTY AGENCY**

**REPORT DATE: August 29, 2009**  
**REPORT FINALIZED: February 5, 2010**

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. 6349 (b))

### Reason for Review.

Senate Bill No. 1147, now known as Act 33, was signed into law 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 standards for reviewing and reporting child fatalities and near child fatalities as a result of suspected 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.

### Circumstances of Death

On Saturday, February 28, 2009 at 0017 hrs Sharon Hill police responded to 1210 Woodland Avenue in Sharon Hill, PA for a report of a person in cardiac arrest. Upon arrival, the police learned that the subject of the call, Yeydilyss Acevedo had been transported to Taylor Hospital by family members. [REDACTED] the subject had been transferred to Crozer Chester Medical Center Trauma Unit for treatment of a stab wound to the upper right torso. Upon arrival at Crozer Chester Medical Center, [REDACTED] Yeydilyss was pronounced dead at 0215 hrs; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Present at Crozer Chester Medical Center was Yeydilyss's mother, [REDACTED], and her husband, [REDACTED] stepfather, [REDACTED]; they were asked to accompany detectives back to Sharon Hill police headquarters. [REDACTED] was advised of her Miranda warnings at which time [REDACTED] waived her rights and agreed to provide a tape-recorded statement to detectives. [REDACTED] stated that her daughter, Yeydilyss, came home at 12:00AM and when [REDACTED] confronted her, they began to argue. [REDACTED] states that her daughter called her a profane name and the mother slapped her. Yeydilyss began to strike her with an unknown object. [REDACTED] states that while her daughter was hitting her, she reached behind herself and grabbed an unknown object to "scare" her daughter. [REDACTED] states that at this point, her daughter "lunged" at her causing her daughter to sustain an injury. Based on the aforementioned facts, believing them to be true and correct detectives requested a warrant for [REDACTED] to be brought to court to answer charges of murder.

[REDACTED] the victim's stepfather, [REDACTED], instructed his son, [REDACTED] (17 years old) to clean the kitchen area so that the younger children did not have to see the blood. [REDACTED] while he was on his way to Taylor Hospital, he called his son, [REDACTED], to check up on the smaller children. [REDACTED] mentioned to his father (the stepfather) that he found a white handled object; the stepfather advised [REDACTED] to get rid of it. [REDACTED], in a tape-recorded statement, stated that he cleaned the kitchen area and while doing so, he removed and disposed of two knives from the residence. [REDACTED]

directed detectives to a knife that was inside a sewer. [REDACTED] further advised that he disposed of a second knife near railroad tracks next to a heavily wooded area; however, the second knife could not be located. Delaware County C&Y inquired about the possibility of any charges being brought against the stepfather; the detectives stated that NO charges would be brought against the stepfather in this case.

The Post Mortem Examination Report states that 17 year old Hispanic female, Yeydilyss Acevedo, died of a stab wound of the chest which injured the right lung and a blood vessel in the lung. The Examiner listed the manner of death as Homicide.

**Summary of Review**

**Family Constellation**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
Acevedo, Yeydilyss	Decedent	8/29/1991
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED] 1969
[REDACTED]	Step-Father	[REDACTED] 1967
[REDACTED]	Sister	[REDACTED] 1990
[REDACTED]	Step-Brother	[REDACTED] 1991
[REDACTED]	Step-Brother	[REDACTED] 1994
[REDACTED]	Sister	[REDACTED] 1997
[REDACTED]	Half-Sister	[REDACTED] 2001

**Documents Reviewed and Individuals Interviewed**

For this review the SERO reviewed the Sharon Hill Police Department's Police Criminal Complaint Report; Delaware County Medical Examiner's Post Mortem Examination Report, the Delaware County Children and Youth Child Death Data Tool, and the Intake Documentation of Casework Activity completed by the Delaware County C&Y assigned Caseworker, [REDACTED]. Interviews were completed with Delaware County assigned CW, [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] supervisor, [REDACTED]. The regional office also attended Delaware County's Internal Fatality Review Meeting regarding this case on 07/01/2009. SERO also attended the Delaware County Child Death Review Team Meeting on January 13, 2010.

**Case Chronology**

The [REDACTED] family did not become known to Delaware County Children and Youth until the death of Yeydilyss Acevedo on 02/28/2009. [REDACTED] On 03/03/09- The agency discovered in the Daily Times (newspaper) that Yeydilyss Acevedo was killed by her mother, [REDACTED]; the agency contacted the Sharon Hill Police Department to receive the

police report. Delaware County C&Y Administrator called the medical examiner to request the report regarding the death of Yeydilyss Acevedo. [REDACTED]

- 03/03/09-CW and CW Supervisor met with [REDACTED] (step-father) and his family to give oral notification of [REDACTED] report and to interview and observe children in order to make a safety assessment. All children were introduced and the CW found them to be polite and appeared to be well cared for. The children were assessed to be safe in the home because their basic needs appeared to be met and [REDACTED] was assessed as appropriate. CW asked [REDACTED] if he would be able to share details about the incident that occurred on Saturday, 02/28/09; [REDACTED] apologized and stated that his attorney advised him not to speak of the incident. [REDACTED] introduced the CW to all of the children who were very polite and appeared to be well cared for; the house was very clean and free of clutter. The children are assessed to be Safe in the home because their basic needs are being met and [REDACTED] is assessed as an appropriate care taker. In assessing [REDACTED] appropriateness to care for the remaining children, the CW, said that she observed the interaction between [REDACTED] and the children, and found it to be a "warm, close" interaction. The CW said that in her observation, it would have been quite detrimental to the children, (who had just lost their sister and essentially their mother) to move them from their father's care. In addition, the family has relatives staying with them to offer support and assistance. Also, the family has adult relatives staying with them to offer support and assistance. Based on the Risk and Safety Assessment the children were determined to be "safe."
- 03/03/09-CW made phone contact with Detective [REDACTED]; Detective [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] would not be charged in the 02/28/09 incident, and offered to fax a copy of the affidavit. CW asked Detective [REDACTED] what the reaction of his office would be if [REDACTED] made bail. Detective [REDACTED] stated that there would not be any issues with [REDACTED] being around the children because what happened was a tragic accident. Detective [REDACTED] also informed the CW that the only police report concerning this family prior to the 02/28/09 incident was a call from [REDACTED] who saw a stranger in his yard and expressed concern that he was trying to steal one of the children's bicycles.
- CW asked [REDACTED], parent's attorney, if there was any way she would be able to interview [REDACTED] about the 02/28/09 incident; to which [REDACTED] replied that it would not be possible at that time due to the pending criminal proceedings. CW went on to explain that if [REDACTED] was to make bail and able to return home, the family would be required to agree not to allow her to be around the children unsupervised. [REDACTED] stated that he had

already discussed that scenario with [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] went on to say that he knows [REDACTED] personally; they happen to be in [REDACTED] together.

[REDACTED] went on to say that he knows [REDACTED] to be a stable and appropriate parent.

- 03/06/09-CW was informed by [REDACTED] that the family's house caught on fire today; he stated that no one was hurt and the Red Cross is helping them, the family will "lease" a home in Sharon Hill.
- 03/24/09-At the Preliminary hearing for [REDACTED], the Assistant District Attorney fought to have the First Degree Murder charge remain but the judge "ruled out" the First Degree Murder charge. [REDACTED] remains in prison; thus, the children are assessed to be "Safe" in the home.

04/21/2009-CW met with [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]

- 08/21/2009-Safety Assessment Worksheet completed – the Safety Decision is determined to be Safe: "Either caregiver's existing protective capacities sufficiently control each specific and identified safety threat or no safety threats exist. Child can safely remain in the current living arrangement or with caregiver, Safety plan is not required."
- 08/21/2009- Risk Assessment completed- Overall Risk is determined to be "Moderate": The children have been assessed to be safe in the home as of 08/21/2009, under the condition that [REDACTED] remains in prison and does not have access to the children. Based on the identified risks and strengths of the family, the overall level of risk to the children is "moderate risk", if [REDACTED] returns to the home and has access to the children. It is assessed that the overall risk would be "low risk" if [REDACTED] is not residing in the home and does not have access to the children. If [REDACTED] is released from prison, the agency has requested of the court to be notified so that the agency can intervene." This case was not opened for services by Delaware County C&Y; however, a letter was sent to the Delaware County Assistant District Attorney, [REDACTED] requesting that Delaware County C&Y be given prior notification of the intent to release [REDACTED] from prison.

On October 27, 2009, [REDACTED] was found "guilty" of:

- Involuntary Manslaughter for which she will serve a minimum of 30 months and a maximum of 60 months
- Aggravated Assault for which she will serve a minimum of 36 months and a maximum of 72 months
- Possession of an Instrument of Crime for which she will serve a minimum of 3 months and a maximum of 12 months

### **Findings and Recommendations.**

County Findings: During the review on this case, it was revealed that the family had only been in Delaware County 9 months prior to this incident. It was felt by the Delaware County Internal Review Team that the family may have been having problems with their teenage children and did not know where to turn for help. Representatives from the Delaware County Children and Youth Office advised that there has been a big "push" to get a Youth Advocacy Program in the county. Other suggestions included a "guide" to show all of the activities and resources available to families with teens; the guide would be printed in both English and Spanish. Schools would be an ideal place to make contact with parents (when they go to the school to register their children) especially if they are just moving to the area.

OCYF Findings: SERO will work with the county in the upcoming year to help make these positive changes. Review of the NBB did not reflect a request for the identified service.