



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

OFFICE OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Raheemah Shamsid-Deen Hampton
Managing Director
Southeast Region

Room 502 State Office Building
1400 Spring Garden Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19130

(215) 560-2249/2823
Fax: (215) 560-6893

REPORT ON THE FATALITY OF

Kent Schaible

BORN: 07/17/2006
DIED: 01/24/2009

FAMILY WAS NOT KNOWN TO THE AGENCY

REPORT DATE: 5/21/2009
REPORT FINALIZED: 02/05/2010

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.

2-year-old Kent Schaible died on 01/24/2009 at 11:22PM of bacterial Pneumonia. The family believes in faith healing and is members of the First Century Gospel Church. The father said that the child had been sick with a sore throat, loose bowels, lethargic and no appetite. The pastor and family had been praying for the child. Kent was found dead at home. The funeral home [REDACTED] came to pick up the body and took the body to the Medical Examiner's (ME) office. Dr. [REDACTED] of the ME's office examined the body and said there were no indications of abuse or neglect. [REDACTED]

Summary of Review.

Family Constellation

<u>Name</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
KENT SCHAIBLE	DECEASED CHILD	07/17/2006
[REDACTED]	FATHER	[REDACTED] 1969
[REDACTED]	MOTHER	[REDACTED] 1968
[REDACTED]	SIBLING	[REDACTED] 1995
[REDACTED]	SIBLING	[REDACTED] 1997
[REDACTED]	SIBLING	[REDACTED] 1998
[REDACTED]	SIBLING	[REDACTED] 2001
[REDACTED]	SIBLING	[REDACTED] 2003
[REDACTED]	SIBLING	[REDACTED] 2004

Documents Reviewed and Individuals Interviewed.

For this review the Southeast Regional Office (SERO) reviewed the Philadelphia Medical Examiner's file, and the Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS) [REDACTED] investigation file.

Case Chronology.

On 01/25/2009 [REDACTED] called DHS hotline to state 2 year old Kent Schaible died on 01/24/2009 at 11:22 PM of bacterial Pneumonia. The family believes in faith healing and is members of the First Century Gospel Church. The father said that the child had been sick with a sore throat, loose bowels, lethargic and no appetite. The pastor and family had been praying for the child. Kent was found dead at home. The funeral home [REDACTED] came to pick up the body and took the body to the Medical Examiner's (ME) office. Dr. [REDACTED] of the ME's office examined the body and said there were no indications of abuse or neglect. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] DHS caseworker to ask the family if they would allow the caseworker and a nurse to check the children for signs of the illness. If the family did not, they may have to get a court order to insure the children's health. First Century Gospel Church does not believe in medical intervention. The Pastor, [REDACTED], stated "faith and trust is in God's almighty power to heal"; however, they did not feel that the nurse checking the other children's vitals and temperatures would violate their belief.

01/26/2009 DHS caseworker and nurse went to the family home for an assessment and to evaluate the rest of the children in the home for signs of bacterial pneumonia, i.e. high temperature and being sweaty. The other six children in the home were not sick. The father was interviewed at this visit. The children did not talk much and were shy. It was difficult to interview the six children at this time.

01/27/2009 DHS consulted with their legal department about this specific case and other cases involving families that believe in faith based practices. The ME did not find any evidence of abuse or neglect to the victim child. No criminal charges were filed.

1/30/09 Supervisor and worker discussed case with the administrators [REDACTED]. They all agreed that DHS has to adhere to the rights of the family's religion. The case is [REDACTED] based on religious reasons and the case was closed.

The family had no previous involvement with DHS.

DHS was not required to complete an internal review of this case since it was [REDACTED] within 30 days of the [REDACTED] report. The case was reviewed by SERO.

Office of Children, Youth and Families' Findings and Recommendations

The father, pastor of the church and the congregation had been praying for the child. Kent died in his home from complications of bacterial Pneumonia. The ME, Dr. [REDACTED] examined the body and found no evidence of abuse or neglect.

The legal department of DHS researched the church and found it to be a legitimate religion. The father said that it had been established since 1927 and he and his wife had been born into the religion and all of his extended family is part of this religion.

- DHS should develop a written policy for conducting "faith based" investigations. The agency has been following best practice where they will research the legitimacy of any "faith based" investigations. DHS followed best practice procedures in the investigation of this case. DHS should conduct training for [REDACTED] workers to follow, as the policy is developed.