



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

OFFICE OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

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REPORT ON THE DEATH OF

Konnyr Roush

BORN: November 26, 2008

DIED: January 15, 2009

**FAMILY NOT KNOWN TO:
ERIE COUNTY OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

DATED FEBRUARY 4, 2009

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 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 fatality and near child fatality as a result of suspected child abuse. DPW must conduct child fatality and near fatality review and provide a written report on any child fatality or near fatality where child abuse is suspected.

Family Constellation:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
[REDACTED]	Father	[REDACTED] 1974
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED] 1983
Konnyr Roush	Victim child	11/26/2008
[REDACTED]	Step-sister	[REDACTED] 2000

Notification of Fatality / Near Fatality:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] The victim child had a penetrating injury to her anus. Injuries could be associated with either a physical or sexual assault. Complete autopsy reports are pending, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Konnyr was admitted to Corry Memorial Hospital on 1/15/2009 and pronounced dead that evening. On 1/16/2009, the child was examined by the coroner [REDACTED]. Child had a penetrating injury to her anus. Injuries could be associated with either a physical or sexual assault. A law enforcement referral had been made.

Circumstances of Child's Fatality or Near Fatality:

On January 15, 2009 Corry Ambulance Service and the Corry Fire Department were dispatched to the family home for a priority one call for a two-month-old infant lying on the floor apenic and without a pulse. Konnyr had [REDACTED] due to being one month premature. No other medical problems were noted. The father reported that Konnyr had been crying for the past hour. He noted that her abdomen was distended and rigid.

Documents Reviewed and Individuals Interviewed:

For this review the Department reviewed the medical record from Corry Memorial Hospital, and Saint Vincent Hospital, the Erie County Medical Examiner's file and the Erie County Office of Children and Youth file.

Previous CY involvement:

Erie County Office of Children, Youth and Families did not have involvement with the family prior to Konnyr's Death.

Case Chronology:

On 11/16/2009, [REDACTED] called Erie County Office of Children and Youth and told them that they had received a report from the Erie County's Coroner Office that Konnyr had been brought into the Coroner's office for an autopsy. The preliminary finding was that the child had an anal tear and a loss of blood. The District Attorney was going to the parent's home to interview the parents. The District Attorney instructed the agency not to talk with anyone until they had permission from the District Attorney.

Later in the day on 11/16/09, the District Attorney again called the agency. The District Attorney informed the agency that the family home had been searched and no evidence was found of trauma to explain Konnyr's death. There were dirty diapers, but no blood found. The District Attorney interviewed the parents and found no evidence that would lead him to believe that either parent had mistreated Konnyr. Even though the parents had not been apprised of the rationale for a criminal investigation, their description of the care they provided for Konnyr and her medical condition were consistent with each other.

After the initial review, the Coroner believed it was a hematoma of the colon that caused Konnyr's death. The concern is that it is unknown where the blood is as there was not a lot of blood in the child and they found none at the home

The District Attorney instructed the agency to interview the father's 9-year-old daughter and her mother see if they know about any babysitters or other situations which would raise concern.

11/17/2009:

The agency made an unannounced home visit to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The worker called the father and told him that because of the ongoing investigation that his daughter could not be at his home. [REDACTED]

Later that day the agency interviewed [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On 1/30/2009 [REDACTED] informed the agency that Konnyr's death was from natural causes. The agency spoke to the father's daughter's mother and the father to inform them that the father's daughter could resume contact with the father.

On 2/13/2009 the Erie County Coroner issued his written report that Konnyr's death was a result of late-onset necrotizing enterocolitis of the small intestine. There were no signs of abuse or neglect. The criminal investigation was closed.

On 3/5/2009 the agency completed the [REDACTED] Investigation [REDACTED].

On 3/11/2009 the Risk Assessment was completed with finding of no risk and no overall severity.

On 3/12/2009 the agency closed the case. [REDACTED]

Findings

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED] provided well child care to Konnyr. Her first appointment was on 12/26/2008. Konnyr was doing well at that appointment. Her next appointment was on 1/7/2009. Konnyr was doing well at this appointment. The next scheduled appointment was 1/16/2009.
- The Erie County Coroner Office found that Konnyr's death was a result of late-onset necrotizing enterocolitis of the small intestine.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

Konnyr's death was a result of natural causes. Her parents endured the trauma of a problematic pregnancy, which resulted in her premature birth. Konnyr experienced a number of health problems, which resulted in her nearly one month, stay in the hospital after her birth. Her parents cooperated with the services provided during her hospital stay. They also followed through with her medical appointments after she returned home.

[REDACTED]

It is my understanding that the agency and the District Attorney's office are in the process of discussions on how to handle situations in which evidence obtained subsequent to the initial report of suspected abuse reveals that the report is erroneous. The department supports these discussions.

The agency must take care to pay closer attention to demographic details. The birth records, medical records, and coroner's report identify Konnyr's sex as female. Erie County Office of Children and Youth records had the sex listed as a male.

The Department is in agreement with Erie County Office of Children and Youth's decision [REDACTED] and to close the case.