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## **REPORT ON THE NEAR DEATH OF**



**BORN: January 27, 2009**  
**Date of Near Death Incident: April 7, 2009**

**Family was previously known to the**  
**Erie County Office of Children and Youth**

**REPORT FINALIZED: 02/09/10**

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. 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 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.

**Circumstances of Child's Fatality:**

On April 8, 2009, Erie County Office of Children and Youth (OCY) was informed that 2 month old [REDACTED] had been admitted to the hospital after suffering a right skull fracture and subdural hematomas. The child had bruising to her face that included a quarter size bruise on the right side of her forehead, three bruises clustered on the left side of her forehead, a bruise over her left eye and bruising on her upper left cheek. Father allegedly dropped the child causing her to hit her head on a computer desk as she fell. The mother was not home at the time of the incident but was adamant the father did not intentionally hurt the child. The father stated the child obtained the bruises after falling from his lap and hitting the desk he was sitting at. There was a law enforcement investigation at the time of the report.

**Summary of Review**

**1. Family Constellation:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
[REDACTED]	Child	01/27/2009
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED] 1986
[REDACTED]	Father	[REDACTED] 1980
[REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED] 2006

**2. Documents Reviewed and Individuals Interviewed:**

The Western Region Office of Children Youth and Families Program Representative completed a review of the 2008 intake file, the completed [REDACTED] report [REDACTED] [REDACTED] from the April 2009 investigation and interviewed the intake supervisor.

**Previous CY involvement**

In August 2008 Erie County OCY received a report that the mother was feeling "stressed and overwhelmed" while dealing with a new and unexpected pregnancy. Additionally, she was dealing with the death of a close friend and her aunt being recently [REDACTED]. The report alleged that the mother pushed the 2 year old away from her and the child fell down; however there were no injuries identified. The mother had already taken the initiative [REDACTED] prior to the report being received. The agency completed an assessment, obtained medical records for the 2 year old in the home and

assisted the mother and father in [REDACTED]. The referral was closed in October 2008 with a referral to community based services. Services were initiated for the mother [REDACTED].

### **Findings and Recommendations**

After review of the case records and the interview of staff, the WROCYF has determined that Erie County OCY followed appropriate protocols in regards to the investigation in August 2008 and to the April 2009 referral on [REDACTED]. Based on the current criminal investigation and interviews with subject persons, the father was seen as having caused the critical injuries to the child. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The child and her sister are doing well and living with their mother in Corry, PA. The father was arrested and is awaiting a hearing.

In conclusion, the Western Region Office of Children, Youth and Families makes the following recommendations:

A Child Death Review was not completed by Erie County; however due to the April 2009 referral [REDACTED] and the investigation taking longer than 30 days, the agency should have completed a Child Death Review.