



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:

[REDACTED]

Date of Birth: 10/11/2003
Date of Incident: 09/07/2015
Date of Report to ChildLine: 09/11/2015
CWIS Referral ID: [REDACTED]

FAMILY WAS KNOWN TO COUNTY CHILDREN AND YOUTH AGENCY AT TIME OF INCIDENT:

Berks County Children and Youth Services
Bucks County Children and Youth Services

REPORT FINALIZED ON:
04/06/2016

Unredacted reports are confidential under the provisions of the Child Protective Services Law and cannot be released to the public.
(23 Pa. C.S. Section 6340)

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

Reason for Review:

Pursuant to the Child Protective Services Law, the Department, through OCYF, must conduct a review and provide a written report of all cases of suspected child abuse that result in a fatality or near fatality. This written report must be completed as soon as possible but no later than six months after the date the report was registered with ChildLine for investigation.

The Child Protective Services Law also requires that county children and youth agencies convene a review when a report of child abuse involving a fatality or near fatality is substantiated or when a status determination has not been made regarding the report within 30 days of the report to ChildLine.

Berks County has not convened a review team in accordance with the Child Protective Services Law related to this report. The status of the report was determined to be unfounded within 30 days of the report to Childline.

Family Constellation:

<u>First and Last Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
[REDACTED]	Victim Child	10/11/2003
[REDACTED]	Biological Mother	[REDACTED] 1983
[REDACTED]	Step-Father	[REDACTED] 1983
* [REDACTED]	Biological Father	[REDACTED] 1981
* [REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED] 2000
[REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED] 2002
[REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED] 2004
[REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED] 2007
[REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED] 2008
[REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED] 2010
[REDACTED]	Half-Sibling	[REDACTED] 2012

* Denotes an individual that is not a household member or did not live in the home at the time of the incident, but is relevant to the report.

Summary of OCYF Child Near Fatality Review Activities:

The OCYF Regional Office conducted a review of the complete record for this incident on 01/05/2016. Interviews were also conducted with caseworker [REDACTED] casework supervisor [REDACTED] and director of intake [REDACTED] on 01/05/2016.

Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:

03/23/2009 – A General Protective Services (GPS) report was received and accepted for investigation. The report alleges the home is small, parents have beer parties, all children are in one room, the father beats the children and pulls their hair, does not allow them to shower, infant has severe rash and had to be

hospitalized. This was investigated and determined that services were not needed at this time. This case was closed on 04/20/2009.

03/12/2010 – A GPS report was received and accepted for investigation due to concerns of no medical management plan for one of the children. This child also had truancy issues. This was investigated and determined that services were not needed at this time. This case was closed on 05/12/2010.

06/08/2010 – A GPS report was received and accepted for investigation due to concerns of the family living in [REDACTED], truancy for all of the children, and domestic violence between the parents. This was investigated and determined that services were not needed at this time. This case was closed on 08/06/2010.

10/28/2011 – A GPS report was received and accepted for investigation due to concerns of the mother hitting the children with broom handles and choking one of the children. The family was accepted for services on 12/27/2011.

09/14/2012 – A GPS report was received in Bucks County because the family moved to that county. A case was opened in Bucks County and remained open for services until 06/27/13 after the family moved back to Berks County.

05/05/2013 – A Child Protective Services (CPS) report was received alleging the parents have shared custody and one of the children came home from the father's home with a mark on his bottom. The mother took the child to the doctor and he stated that it appeared to be a burn. This was an information only report.

11/06/2013 – The father reported that [REDACTED] had not gone to the doctor and has been hospitalized for [REDACTED]. He also reported that there are not enough seats in the van for all of the children. This was an information only report.

11/19/2013 – An information only report was received stating that the mother had been charged with child endangerment a year prior and recently got her kids back. The report states that the mother is in [REDACTED] and kids are staying with the mother's paramour who may be abusive.

12/04/2013 – A report was received stating that the reporting source was interested in opening her home to foster children because one of the children in this family was removed. The reporting source was a friend of the family. This was an information only report.

05/18/2014 – A CPS report was received stating that one of the children performed oral sex on her brother while she was home on a weekend visit. He denied the incident at a Children's Advocacy Center interview and also at a medical evaluation. The case was unfounded.

05/29/2014 – An information only report was received stating that one of the children reported the mother is verbally abusive and calls her "stupid" and "ignorant".

07/01/2014 – A GPS report was accepted for assessment stating that the home smells like animal feces, there are dirty diapers and moldy food everywhere. The report also stated that the children are not bathed and they are frequently unsupervised with no food in the home. This was investigated and addressed.

12/03/2014 – A CPS report was received stating that the mother's husband slammed on the brakes and caused one of the children to hit her face against the back of the front seat. The report also states that he elbowed her and yelled at her. This report was unfounded.

07/23/2015 – A CPS report was received stating that one of the children put her hands down one of the other children's pants while she was sleeping. The alleged perpetrator was visiting the home over the weekend. The alleged perpetrator was indicated for this report.

Circumstances of Child Near Fatality and Related Case Activity:

A CPS report was received on 09/11/2015 alleging that the child was transferred via Life Lion to Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital from Reading Hospital on 09/07/2015, presenting with [REDACTED]. The child was in [REDACTED] and certified to be in critical condition by the attending physicians. The child's [REDACTED]. According to the referral source, only medical neglect would cause that [REDACTED]. The parents claimed that the child's [REDACTED] and she was only feeling ill for approximately four hours. The child reportedly had severe diarrhea and vomiting during that four hour time span. The referral source stated that the victim child's [REDACTED]

The child [REDACTED] on 09/11/2015. When the caseworker asked the mother about the [REDACTED] she stated that the child uses several different [REDACTED] and the one that was checked at the follow up appointment on 09/11/2015, was given to them at the hospital on 09/09/2015, so it wouldn't have all [REDACTED]. The mother was able to produce an additional [REDACTED] for the caseworker that showed the child was [REDACTED]. Pictures were taken of these [REDACTED].

The mother reported to the caseworker that [REDACTED] at her follow up visit seemed to have something against her and was very accusatory. When the caseworker called [REDACTED] she stated that she was concerned due to the mother insisting that the child was old enough to be responsible for her [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] was almost deadly.

The caseworker then called the [REDACTED] to ask him about the CPS report. He stated that he looked over all of the notes and the child's condition was

- Berks County Children and Youth Services should continue to conduct thorough investigations in a timely manner.
- Berks County Children and Youth Services should continue to work closely with medical professionals and law enforcement.
- Berks County Children and Youth Services should continue to communicate effectively and in a timely fashion with the OCYF Regional Office.