



REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:

[REDACTED]

Date of Birth: 03/04/2013
Date of Incident: 10/25/2015
Date of Report to ChildLine: 10/25/2015
CWIS Referral ID: [REDACTED]

**FAMILY NOT KNOWN TO COUNTY CHILD WELFARE AT TIME OF INCIDENT
OR WITHIN THE PRECEDING 16 MONTHS:**

Clearfield County Children, Youth and Family Services

REPORT FINALIZED ON:
06/01/2016

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.

Clearfield County has convened a review team in accordance with the Child Protective Services Law related to this report. The county review team was convened on 11/16/2015.

Family Constellation:

<u>First and Last Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth:</u>
[REDACTED]	Victim	03/04/2013
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED] 1991
[REDACTED]	Father	[REDACTED] 1991
[REDACTED]	Father's Paramour	[REDACTED] 1994
[REDACTED]	Half Sibling	[REDACTED] 2013

Summary of OCYF Child Near Fatality Review Activities:

A formal Act 33 meeting occurred on 11/16/2015 and the Office of Children, Youth and Families, Western Region (OCYF) attended. OCYF interviewed the caseworker and supervisor, reviewed the entire file, including all medical documentation and collateral contacts.

Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:

Clearfield County Children, Youth and Families (CCCYF) had no prior involvement with this family prior to the near fatality.

Circumstances of Child Near Fatality and Related Case Activity:

On 10/25/2015, CCCYF received a Child Protective Services (CPS) report on the victim child. The CPS report [REDACTED] the victim child was being treated for suspected trauma. The victim child was transported by local Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to Dubois Hospital from the residence of his father and father's paramour. The father had left the residence to run into town, and the paramour was home alone watching the victim child. The father alleged he received a call from his paramour that the victim child was shaking. The father got

to the home right as the EMS was arriving. Per the report, there were five other adults in the home when the EMS arrived. When the victim child arrived to the hospital he was unresponsive to stimuli, lethargic and barely breathing. [REDACTED]

Upon examination, the victim child was [REDACTED] Bruises started to appear on the victim child within 15 minutes of arrival at the hospital. These bruises were located on both sides of the victim child's neck, chin, and the middle of his neck [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Bruises were forming on his left upper arm and underneath his armpit, as well as his right hip bone and right outer eye. The victim child had old bruises on his lower back and bottom, his right elbow and a scab also on his left elbow.

The father alleged that the victim child fell off the couch the day prior, but started shaking just prior to EMS being called. [REDACTED] Physician did not believe the father's story was consistent with the victim child's injuries. The victim child was stabilized and then transported via emergency helicopter to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh for further evaluation.

On 10/30/2015, the near fatality was registered by Dr. [REDACTED] at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh (CHP). The findings from CHP were as follows: the victim child presented at CHP on 10/25/2015 after developing [REDACTED] The victim child was found to have [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He was certified to be in critical condition.

Upon further examination [REDACTED] raising concerns for past trauma. However, these injuries could not be dated and the general consensus from the medical team was that a child does not normally have more than one violent caregiver in their life and this was more than likely from the same caregiver that caused the current injuries. [REDACTED]

The victim child was unconscious until 10/29/2015 when [REDACTED] The victim child remained in CHP [REDACTED] to the Children's Institute of Pittsburgh where he [REDACTED] to the mother on 01/15/2016. [REDACTED] The victim child will have [REDACTED]

first review by the examiner. The polygraph examiner is reviewing the results and will give a final determination once it is obtained.

Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on reducing the likelihood of future child fatalities and near fatalities directly related to abuse:

To provide education to families and the community about shaken baby syndrome and the effects that it has on the children and to provide pamphlets for the community for awareness on recognizing signs of abuse.

Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on monitoring and inspection of county agencies:

None

Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on collaboration of community agencies and service providers to prevent child abuse:

None

Department Review of County Internal Report:

The Department reviewed the County Internal Report and found it to be accurate. It was approved by the Regional Office.

Department of Human Services Findings:

County Strengths:

Clearfield County immediately assured safety of the child and had the victim child seen by Allegheny County Children and Youth. The County ensured that the Police were immediately involved and a joint investigation occurred. The County kept the Department up to date on the case and got the file to the Department in a timely manner.

County Weaknesses:

None

Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance by the County Agency:

None

Department of Human Services Recommendations:

The Department recommends that further literature and information be given to parents of young children about abusive head trauma. In addition, parents be provided with listings of local resources that parents can utilize if they are feeling frustrated with their child or step child.