



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

OFFICE OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

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REPORT ON THE Near Fatality OF:



BORN: [REDACTED] 2010
Date of Near Fatality Incident: 6/29/2010

**FAMILY NOT KNOWN TO
ANY PUBLIC OR PRIVATE CHILD WELFARE AGENCY**

REPORT FINALIZED ON: 03/31/2011

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 1147, Printer's Number 2159 was signed into law on July 3, 2008 by Governor Edward G. Rendell. The bill became effective on December 30, 2008 and is known as Act 33 of 2008. As part of Act 33 of 2008, DPW must conduct a review and provide a written report of all cases of suspected child abuse that result in a child 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.

Act 33 of 2008 also requires that county children and youth agencies convene a review when a report of child abuse involving a child fatality or near fatality is indicated or when a status determination has not been made regarding the report within 30 days of the oral report to ChildLine. Delaware County did not convene a review team as [REDACTED] prior to the 30 day time frame specified in Act 33.

Family Constellation:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth:</u>
[REDACTED]	Victim child	[REDACTED] 2010
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED] 1989
[REDACTED]**	Father	[REDACTED] 1977
[REDACTED]	Maternal grandfather	[REDACTED] 1958
[REDACTED]	Maternal grandmother	[REDACTED] 1959
[REDACTED]	Maternal great grandmother	[REDACTED] 1922
[REDACTED]	Maternal uncle	[REDACTED] 1987
[REDACTED]	Maternal aunt	[REDACTED] 1996
[REDACTED]	Maternal great uncle	[REDACTED] 1957

**Lived in separate household at time of incident

The home belongs to the maternal great grandmother. Her son, the great uncle, was living in the home with her. The maternal grandparents had financial difficulties and moved into this home with their three children: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Notification of Child Near Fatality:

On 7/1/2010, [REDACTED] received a report concerning newborn [REDACTED]. (The hospital had not called in the report until various tests indicated that [REDACTED] had suffered substantial injuries.) On 6/29/2010, [REDACTED] had been transported to Crozier Chester Hospital after a call to 911 from the [REDACTED]. The mother reported that she had delivered [REDACTED] in the kitchen during the early hours of June 29th. She cut the umbilical cord with a pair of scissors, and picked [REDACTED] up. She described the baby as very slippery. She went out to the driveway with the baby in her arms. She dropped [REDACTED] on the driveway. She immediately

went inside to get her father. He picked up the baby, and wrapped him in a towel. The maternal grandfather woke the maternal grandmother who called 911. The child was transported to CHOP for treatment of [REDACTED]

Summary of DPW Child Near Fatality Review Activities:

The Southeast Regional Office

- Reviewed the Delaware County investigation notes
- Reviewed the psychosocial evaluation completed of [REDACTED]
- Interviewed the [REDACTED] investigator 8/4/2010
- Interviewed the ongoing worker 8/12/2010, 9/21/2010.

Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:

This family was not known to any private or public child welfare agencies prior to this incident. However, the father has two children living with their mothers who are known to Berks and Montgomery counties.

Circumstances of Child Near Fatality and Related Case Activity:

On 6/29/2010, [REDACTED] delivered this child in the kitchen by herself during the early hours of June 29th. She cut the umbilical cord with a pair of scissors, and picked the baby up. She went outside with the baby in her arms and described the baby as very slippery. After delivering the baby, she was upset. When anxious, she frequently paces in the driveway and road in front of her home. She went out to the driveway, but dropped the baby. She immediately went inside to get her father, leaving the baby in the road. Her father came outside. He immediately picked up the baby, and awakened [REDACTED] who called 911. The child was transported to Crozier Chester Hospital via ambulance. The [REDACTED] reported to police at the scene that she had not delivered the placenta. Medical examination determined that [REDACTED] had [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was transported to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) later on 6/29/2010 for further medical management in the [REDACTED]

On 7/1/2010, [REDACTED] was notified of this Near Fatality. Within two hours of receiving the [REDACTED], the Delaware County worker went to CHOP to begin the investigation. The county worker met with the mother, maternal grandfather, and [REDACTED] staff.

The mother's account of the incident:

She thought she was having her period, as she had been cramping all night. During the early morning hours of 6/29/2010, [REDACTED] was born in the kitchen. He came out feet first. She cut his umbilical cord with scissors that were nearby.

She panicked. She went outside and was pacing with the baby in her arms. The baby fell out of her arms onto the black top driveway. She went into the house to get her father, leaving the baby outside.

The mother identified the father as [REDACTED], who lives in Pottstown.

The maternal grandparents' account of the incident:

The mother was cramping for two hours, as her period gets heavy on and off. Neither of the grandparents knew she was pregnant. The maternal grandmother reported that she thought that she was just having really bad cramps. They had given her Advil. This worked for awhile, but four hours later she was in pain again. About 2 am the maternal grandmother got up and gave the mother some Midol. Both maternal grandmother and maternal grandfather went to bed after this, leaving the mother alone in the kitchen.

The maternal grandfather reported being awakened at 4 am by the mother telling him it was an emergency. He was very surprised when he went downstairs and he saw blood in the kitchen. The mother told him that it (the emergency) was outside. He went outside and saw the baby at the end of the driveway. He picked up the baby, pinched the cord, and cleaned him off. The baby had a dry spot on his head that concerned him, but otherwise the baby looked healthy. He wrapped the baby in a towel and went to wake up his wife. The maternal grandmother came downstairs and called 911. The maternal grandmother was holding the baby while the father and maternal uncle began to clean up the kitchen. The [REDACTED] thinks that the baby was outside for less than a minute. He believed that the mother had been scared to pick up the baby as he was very slippery. The [REDACTED] estimated that the baby probably fell about three feet from her arms. When the paramedics arrived, the baby was immediately taken to the hospital.

Other investigative information collected: The mother did suspect that she was [REDACTED]. She did not have her period for 9 months. She took two home [REDACTED] which were negative. She reported that [REDACTED] was her first sexual encounter. The maternal grandmother noted that the mother had gained a significant amount of weight. The maternal grandmother took the mother to the doctor about five months ago. The doctor did blood work and determined that mother had high cholesterol. The mother never reported that she might be [REDACTED].

A safety assessment was completed on 7/1/2010 which determined that the child was not safe. The mother's protective capacities were assessed.

The county worker reviewed [REDACTED]'s medical condition. [REDACTED] had [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] It is unknown if he will have any long-term damage. [REDACTED]

The maternal grandfather described the family composition to the county worker. The maternal grandfather did not feel that they could take a baby into the home because of the maternal great grandmother's potential reaction to the baby. The maternal grandfather was fearful that the stress of a newborn in the home would negatively impact the maternal great grandmother's fragile health. The mother and her family are staying in the home with the maternal great grandmother and maternal great uncle. The maternal great uncle is [REDACTED] and can get very agitated, so the maternal grandfather is concerned how he would react to a baby in the home. The 23 year old maternal uncle and 14 year maternal aunt told the maternal great grandmother what had happened. The maternal grandparents have guardianship of the mother due to her learning and developmental impairments. The mother was diagnosed with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The maternal grandfather thinks that [REDACTED] may have [REDACTED] also; there is a 75% chance that he had inherited this condition.

The caseworker obtained a medical update on [REDACTED] on 7/2/2010. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] There was [REDACTED] His heart and lungs are in great condition.

The mother identified the father as [REDACTED] who lives in Pottstown. The county worker met with the maternal relatives (7/2/2010) and paternal relatives (7/7/2010) to discuss the Plan of Safety. The families were not able to identify any family resources for [REDACTED]. The county worker explained that the Plan of Safety for [REDACTED] would be placement in foster care after [REDACTED] All family members agreed to this plan. Prior to his discharge from the hospital, the foster parents participated in training to care for [REDACTED].

On 7/12/2010, the county worker met the mother, father, and maternal grandfather at the hospital to have all parties sign the voluntary placement agreement and Plan of Safety. [REDACTED] had a follow up medical appointment scheduled for the next day.

Current Case Status:

- On 7/21/2010, [REDACTED].
- The case has been transferred to an ongoing worker.
- Permanency goal is reunification with concurrent goal of kinship family placement.
- Visitation with both parents occurs every two weeks and is supervised by the county worker. The county worker reports that the mother seems appropriate when feeding and burping [REDACTED]. The mother's visits are coordinated with her weekly parenting class. After the class, she has visits. The county worker is trying to arrange the father's parenting class during his lunch hour. The county agency had arranged [REDACTED]'s foster placement around the parents' residences. However, the parents have moved a distance from the foster home and have no transportation, which

has made planning visitation more difficult, due to the need to arrange transportation for the parents, as well as the baby.

- The county agency wants to assess the parents' ability to parent, and are using the parent classes to assist with that assessment.
- On 7/20/2010, the county worker spoke with Dr. [REDACTED], the [REDACTED] who completed the [REDACTED] of the mother for [REDACTED]. His assessment was that the mother may never be able to be left alone with [REDACTED] for more than a few hours, even if she completed intensive instruction.
- The mother is not currently working. Mother had worked at IKEA. Other jobs she has held: bussed tables at restaurant, ice cream server, game room attendant, cashier, child care worker. The mother is being referred to Office of Vocational Training for training and evaluation.
- Maternal grandfather's plan is for him to open a cell phone shop where the mother will work and with an apartment overhead for the mother and father to live in. The county worker is beginning to question the maternal grandfather's commitment and motivation as he has talked about finding a place since July. The worker also wonders if father is realistic about his daughter's limitations, as the worker questions whether the daughter has the skills needed for her to work in a cell phone shop.
- [REDACTED] continues with weekly follow up at CHOP.

County Strengths and Deficiencies and Recommendations for Change as Identified by the County's Child Near Fatality Report:

Act 33 of 2008 also requires that county children and youth agencies convene a review when a report of child abuse involving a child fatality or near fatality is indicated or when a status determination has not been made regarding the report within 30 days of the oral report to ChildLine. Delaware County has not convened a review team in accordance with Act 33 of 2008 related to this report, as

Department of Public Welfare Findings:

- County Strengths:
 - Thorough and well-documented investigation.
 - Contact with other county children and youth agencies to obtain information on the father's other children.
 - Agency assessed family resources for child as placement options, but none were viable options.
 - Mother was encouraged to participate in medical appointments for [REDACTED] with the foster family.

- County Weaknesses:

- Safety assessment completed 7/1/2010 determined that child was Unsafe. There was no Plan of Safety in the case file. The correct assessment would have been safe with a comprehensive plan; the plan being that the child was hospitalized. The county did secure a voluntary placement agreement from the parents, but not until 7/12/2010 when the child was [REDACTED]. The child was placed in [REDACTED] on that date.

- Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance:

- None identified.

Department of Public Welfare Recommendations:

- Delaware County should review Safety Assessment protocols with Intake staff to ensure that staff are accurately assessing safety and developing plans when appropriate.