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REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF



BORN: 10/5/09

DATE OF NEAR FATALITY: 3/13/10

FAMILY WAS NOT KNOWN TO:

Northampton County Department of Human Services Children and Youth Division

DATED 8/5/10

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 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 reviews and provide a written report on any child fatality or near fatality where child abuse is suspected.

1. Family Constellation:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
1. [REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED]
2. [REDACTED]	Child	10/5/09
3. [REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED]
4. [REDACTED]	Maternal Great cousin	[REDACTED]
5. [REDACTED]	Maternal Great Aunt	[REDACTED]
6. [REDACTED]	Maternal Great cousin	[REDACTED]
7. [REDACTED]	Maternal Great Cousin	[REDACTED]
8. [REDACTED]	Maternal Grandmother	[REDACTED]

Notification of Fatality / Near Fatality:

Northampton County Department of Human Services Children and Youth Division received a report on 3/13/10 stating that the child's mom left the child unattended in a bathtub for five minutes. When the mother returned, the child was facing down 4-5 inches of water. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (the child was blue around the lips and didn't have a good respiratory effort). It's unclear as to whether the mother performed CPR at home. The child [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The child is in critical condition and is expected to survive.

Documents Reviewed and Individuals Interviewed:

The [REDACTED] investigation was conducted by the county agency.

The NERO investigation consisted of a review of the [REDACTED] file, interviews with Northampton County Department of Human Services, Children and Youth Division staff and review of the agency's re-enactment of the incident.

Case Chronology:

On March 13, 2010 Northampton County Department of Human Services Children and Youth Division received a referral of [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] that stated that the child was left unattended in a tub for 5 minutes. When the child arrived at the hospital he was blue around the lips and didn't have a good respiratory effort.

On March 13, 2010 Northampton County Department of Human Services Children and Youth Division on call caseworker [REDACTED] contacted [REDACTED] doctor who reported that the child was on a ventilator and was being sent to [REDACTED] hospital. The caseworker also contacted The Bethlehem Police Department to notify them of the report. The Sergeant of the Bethlehem Police Department reported that he had been on the scene when the emergency call was initially made. [REDACTED]. He reported that the child was breathing when he was there. [REDACTED]

On March 13, 2010 the caseworker from Northampton County Department of Human Services Children and Youth Division [REDACTED]

. The child was on a ventilator. [REDACTED]

On March 13, 2010 the caseworker left the hospital and attempted to conduct an unannounced visit to mother's home. Mother was not home, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the child was in his baby bathtub which was placed inside of the bath tub. There were several inches of water in the bathtub. His sibling was in the bath tub. Mother smelled her dinner burning so she took the sibling out of the bath tub and she ran into the kitchen. [REDACTED] she was out of the room for a few minutes. [REDACTED] she went to the neighbor's apartment and 911 was contacted. Mother stated that the child's sibling was in Allentown, PA with her cousin. The caseworker informed the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On March 15, 2010 [REDACTED] t the child was doing well [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On March 17, 2010 the family was referred [REDACTED] to enhance mother's parenting skills.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On March 31, 2010 the caseworker went to the family's home and recorded the mother re-enacting the incident. While reenacting the scene, the mother narrated the event. [REDACTED] she was cooking meat that was frozen so she thought that it would take longer to cook so she gave her children a bath together. Mother pulled child's sibling out of the tub and noticed dinner smoking. Mother left the sibling with a towel around her and went to the kitchen. Mother had to push the couch out of the way to get to the stove. Mother turned off the exhaust fan on and grabbed a pot holder when she saw the child's sibling giggling and playing with the child. When the mother returned to the bathroom the child was face down in the water gasping for air.

On April 8, 2010 the caseworker and administrative staff reviewed the enactment video. All agree that the incident was accidental. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Previous Children and Youth Involvement:

This family was not known to the agency prior to this report.

Circumstances of the Child's Fatality or Near Fatality:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Northampton County Department of Human Services Children and Youth Division reinforced safety techniques with the child's mother. Northampton County Department of Human Services Children and Youth Division referred the child's mother to [REDACTED] to enhance her parenting skills and to [REDACTED] program for her children.

At the conclusion of the investigation both children were returned to the mother's care. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Current / Most Recent Status of Case

- The mother participated in parenting education [REDACTED] to enhance her parenting skills.
 - The mother was referred to [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- No criminal charges have been filed

Statutory and Regulatory Compliance

As a result of the DPW review of the circumstances surrounding the child's near fatality incident including the [REDACTED] file and corresponding family file, it was determined that the Northampton County Department of Human Services Children and Youth Division conducted safety assessments and risk assessments accurately. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The child and his sibling were determined to be safe each time they were assessed in their home. The agency made an announced and an unannounced home visits to assess the safety of the children [REDACTED]

Findings:

- The family was not known to Northampton County Department of Human Services Children and Youth Division at the time of the child's Near fatality
- The agency assessed the safety and risk of the children as required. The children were deemed to be safe in the care of their mother.
- The caseworker conducted an announced and an unannounced visit to the family's home.
- [REDACTED]

Recommendations:

The caseworker completed the investigation under 30 days; however, the paperwork was not submitted to ChildLine within the specified timeframe, therefore the agency had to conduct an internal review of the

investigation. It is recommended that the agency assess and address the clerical staff's ability to complete paperwork in order to meet deadlines.