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REPORT ON NEAR FATALITY OF



BORN: 01/26/2010

NEAR FATALITY: 04/11/2010

FAMILY NOT KNOWN TO:
Berks County Children and Youth Services

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 into law 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.

Family Constellation:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED] 1987
[REDACTED]	Father	[REDACTED] 1992
[REDACTED]	Brother	[REDACTED] 2005
[REDACTED]	Child Victim	01/26/2010

Notification of Fatality / Near Fatality:

Berks County Children and Youth were notified on April 11, 2010 by [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] was suspected of being abused. [REDACTED] arriving at 1:00 AM. The child was in respiratory distress and was intubated. Parents were not able to provide information as to what happened [REDACTED]. The father was the caretaker, as the mother was at work.

Case Chronology:

4/11/10 Caseworker has contact with [REDACTED] Hershey Medical. [REDACTED] Mother was at work when injuries occurred. Child was having a lot of seizures and his injuries are fresh. MRI will be done. The family's initial story is that father had the child in his care and mother was at work.

4/11/10 Caseworker had phone contact [REDACTED] at Dauphin County Children and Youth. [REDACTED], take pictures [REDACTED] which allowed no contact for the parents while the investigation proceeded.

4/11/10 Caseworker spoke with [REDACTED] who is the [REDACTED] at Hershey Medical. [REDACTED] will be undergoing a lot of testing. He was still presenting with seizures. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. The child will be given a battery of tests to aid in determining the cause of his condition. [REDACTED] appeared healthy and without problems.

4/13/10 Caseworker has mother screened for [REDACTED]. No indication of [REDACTED].

4/13/10 Caseworker has father screened for [REDACTED]

4/13/10 Supervisor [REDACTED] about child's condition. [REDACTED] has a 50/50 chance for survival and continues to have seizures. [REDACTED]. The caseworker interviewed the father who [REDACTED].

4/13/10 Caseworker called Hershey Medical for an update. [REDACTED], hospital social worker who reported that the child was seen [REDACTED].

4/13/10 [REDACTED]

4/14/10 CY-104 received by Berks County Detectives. [REDACTED].

4/20/10 [REDACTED] Supervisor [REDACTED]. The injuries surfaced immediately [REDACTED]. The [REDACTED]

4/20/10 [REDACTED]

4/20/10 [REDACTED] Police were called and he was arrested. He is banned from the hospital. Hospital informed the mother no longer needs supervised contact.

4/21/10 [REDACTED]

4/22/10 [REDACTED] Mother has left her apartment and is residing with [REDACTED].

4/23/10 [REDACTED]
Caseworker will meet them at their home.

4/23/10 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] She has quit her job to take care of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] has been referred to [REDACTED]
and will continue to receive medical care from Hershey including his medications.

4/30/10 [REDACTED]

5/3/10 [REDACTED] is seeking help from [REDACTED]

5/12/10 [REDACTED] It was reported that the father had been [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

5/12/2010 [REDACTED]

5/14/10 [REDACTED]. Letter submitted.

Previous Children and Youth Involvement:

There was no previous Children and Youth involvement on the case. It was investigated at intake.

Current / Most Recent Status of Case

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] has been accepted for services. The mother is involved with many supportive services, including [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- The District Attorney continues to investigate this case.

Statutory and Regulatory Compliance

- Safety assessments were done and addressed the needs of the [REDACTED].
- The [REDACTED] began immediately when the agency was notified. The family was accepted for services and a family service plan was completed. The mother is in agreement to the plan [REDACTED]. The mother has a lot of [REDACTED]
- All parties were interviewed.
- Risk Assessments were timely.
- The other child's safety was assessed. [REDACTED]
- A CY104 was sent to law enforcement.

Findings:

Berks County Children and Youth Services investigated the case properly. All safety concerns were addressed and outcomes for the [REDACTED] were clear and complete. Contact was made with all providers on the case and close contact was maintained with medical personnel who were able to closely pinpoint the time of [REDACTED]

Recommendations:

Northeast Regional Office recommends Berks County establish a Review Panel, as required, to assist with evaluation of case dynamics and investigation. It is further recommended that the agency review this case at the established MDT, within six months, in order to update the panel on outcomes, case progress, and safety issues, as the case remains high risk due to the father's uncooperative attitude. A review of the case would also bring together the providers in one setting to review outcomes, progress, and further needs.