



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

OFFICE OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

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REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF



BORN: 07/26/2008
Date of Incident: 03/14/2010

FAMILY KNOWN TO:
Family was not known to any county agency

REPORT DATED 09/03/2010

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 fatalities and near child fatalities 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]	victim child	07/26/2008
[REDACTED]	mother	[REDACTED] 1975
[REDACTED]	father	[REDACTED] /1963
[REDACTED]	brother	[REDACTED] 1993
[REDACTED]	brother	[REDACTED] /1997

Notification of Near Fatality:

[REDACTED] report was received from [REDACTED] on 03/16/2010 stating that on 03/14/2010 a 1 year old child had a burn to his right hand. His biological father reported that the child turned on the hot water in the bathtub and stuck his own hand under the water. Child's parents were in the house, but not in the bathroom. Child's 12 year old sibling was nearby in the bathroom at the time of the incident. Child's parents put a cloth dressing on the injury on 3/14/2010. Parents took dressing off the next morning, but never washed or treated the injury. Dressing was not reapplied. Child has a 2nd degree burn with large open blister. Injury is infected and child has a fever of 103. Child was transferred to St. Christopher's [REDACTED] on 03/16/2010. Child was certified as being in serious condition, and is expected to live. Child has risk of serious complications to right hand. It was reported that the condition to his right hand was the result of delay in medical care.

Documents Reviewed and Individuals Interviewed:

For this review the Southeast Regional Office of Children, Youth, and Families (SERO) reviewed the county case file. SERO interviewed the Montgomery County quality assurance/manager.

Previous CY involvement:

No Previous history with any child welfare agency.

Circumstances of Child's Near Fatality:

On 03/16/2010 a [REDACTED] report was received that stated that a 1 year old child received a burn to his right hand as a result of turning on the hot water in the bath tub and sticking his hand under the water. However, as a result of the investigation it was discovered that the child, with assistance from his 12 year old brother, was washing his hands at the bathroom sink and child turned on the hot water which was easily manipulated. Previously it was reported that biological mother and father were in the house but not in the bathroom. However; the biological father was in the house and the biological mother was [REDACTED]. Biological father put a cloth dressing on the injury on 03/14/2010 and took it off on 03/15/2010 and did not treat the burn nor covered the injury again. When the incident occurred the biological father called the family doctor and was given a date on 03/18/2010 to bring child in for examination. Father was not informed by child's pediatrician to take child to the ER. Biological father took it upon himself to go to the ER when he realized that the injury was not getting better. Child had a 2nd degree burn with a large open blister. Child's injury was infected and he had a temperature of 103. Child was taken to Lansdale Hospital and then transferred to St. Christopher's [REDACTED]. As a result of the delay in medical care, there was a high risk of serious complications to his hand and risk of [REDACTED]. Due to investigative findings, it was determined that the incident in which the injury was sustained was accidental in nature. It was also determined that the child's hand was healing and there were concerns of medical neglect.

Current / most recent status of case:

- This case was unfounded on 04/15/2010

Services to children and families:

Case was closed and no other services were provided to the family due to the situation being an accident and not a concern of medical neglect. The hot water temperature was reduced by the landlord so that the extreme hot water would no longer be an issue.

County Strengths and Deficiencies as identified by the County's Near Fatality Report:

Strengths- The County was in compliance of all statutes and regulations. The case was unfounded; there was no county report.

County Recommendations for changes at the Local (County or State) Levels as identified by way of County's Near Fatality Report:

- None identified

SERO Findings:

County Strengths-

- The County completed the investigation in a timely fashion, including all Risk and Safety Assessments which included reducing the temperature of the hot water by the landlord.

Deficiencies

- None identified

Statutory and Regulatory Compliance issues:

- None Identified