



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

## **REPORT ON THE FATALITY OF:**

### **BRANDON SCHAIBLE**

**Date of Birth: AUGUST 13, 2012**

**Date of Death: APRIL 18, 2013**

**Date of Oral Report: APRIL 18, 2013**

**FAMILY KNOWN TO:**

**Philadelphia DHS**

**REPORT FINALIZED ON:**

**June 5, 2014**

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. 6349 (b))

**Reason for Review:**

Senate Bill 1147, Printer's Number 2159 was signed into law on July 3, 2008. 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. An Act 33 was not required as the county [REDACTED]

**Family Constellation:**

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth:</u>
Brandon Schaible	Victim Child	08/13/2012
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED] 1969
[REDACTED]	Father	[REDACTED] /1968
[REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED] /1995
[REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED] /1997
[REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED] /1998
[REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED] /2001
[REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED] /2003
[REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED] /2004
[REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED] /2009

**Notification of Child Fatality:**

On April 18, 2013 the Department of Human Services (DHS) received a call [REDACTED] reporting a child fatality. The child's name is Brandon Schaible. [REDACTED] According to the report, Brandon Schaible was pronounced dead at approximately 4:00 PM on the afternoon of April 18, 2013. The family notified their pastor who notified the funeral director, who called the Medical Examiner who called [REDACTED]. The [REDACTED] family [REDACTED] and their religious belief is not to seek medical care/treatment. The reporting source stated that Brandon had a rash all over his body and had been sick for several days.

**Summary of DPW Child Fatality Review Activities:**

The Southeast Region Office of Children, Youth and Families (SERO) obtained and reviewed all current records pertaining to the [REDACTED] family including medical and law enforcement records. The SERO spoke with the DHS social worker who initially handled the [REDACTED] case. An Act

33 review was not held, but DHS held an internal MDT meeting to review this case. SERO staff completed interviews with the DHS worker.

### **Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:**

DHS was involved with this family in 2009 when the two year old son of the [REDACTED] died with a diagnosis of [REDACTED]. This was handled through the Act 33 process. [REDACTED]. Pursuant to that fatality, criminal charges were brought against [REDACTED] for involuntary manslaughter. The [REDACTED] were given ten years probation. As a stipulation of their probation the [REDACTED] were ordered to seek medical care for all the other children in the home on a routine basis.

### **Circumstances of Child Fatality and Related Case Activity:**

On April 18, 2013 a call was made [REDACTED] reporting the death of eight month old Brandon Schaible. [REDACTED] said that when he arrived at the [REDACTED] home, [REDACTED] told him that Brandon had been sick for a couple of days; and that Brandon stopped breathing around 4:00PM today. [REDACTED] pronounced Brandon dead at 8:35PM. [REDACTED] told [REDACTED] that Brandon had a rash that was spread over his body for a couple of months, and, this past week he had a runny nose, cold symptoms and had trouble swallowing; it is unknown if he had a fever. Today [REDACTED] noticed that Brandon's breathing was becoming more labored and he stopped breathing about 4:00PM. The family did not seek medical attention at all. The pastor of [REDACTED] was at the home before the police arrived. The pastor called the funeral director to make arrangements to have the body picked up without calling anyone else. The Medical Examiner called the police who called [REDACTED] said that they don't believe in medical intervention for religious reason. [REDACTED] said that police told him that a few years ago the [REDACTED] family lost another child who was about two years old at the time who had been ill and they failed to seek medical attention for that child. According to a [REDACTED] the father was court ordered to 10 years probation because of the death of the first [REDACTED] child, and the father was under a court order to seek medical attention for any of his children that were sick. Brandon had various discolorations throughout his body and had fingertip bruises around his ribs, on his wrists and on his back. Brandon also had a rash on his head which appeared to be dried patches of skin and a mark on his left cheek that looked like a crease mark. It is unknown if the marks were caused before or after Brandon's death. [REDACTED] reports that [REDACTED] was carrying Brandon's body around when [REDACTED] arrived at the home.

- 04/18/2013- DHS hotline worker spoke to the [REDACTED] children's Maternal Grandmother (MGM) in reference to a possible caregiver; however the MGM stated that she shared the religious beliefs of the parents.
- 04/19/2013- request for [REDACTED] of the remaining seven [REDACTED] children.
- 04/19/2013- the seven [REDACTED] children were examined in [REDACTED] of The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) - all children were medically clear; however there were some treatable medical conditions found in three of the children.

- 04/19/2013-The [REDACTED] children were placed in foster care; [REDACTED] were placed together in one home, [REDACTED] were place together in another home and [REDACTED] were placed together in another home.

On 5/2/2013-[REDACTED]

### **Current Case Status:**

On November 14, 2013, [REDACTED] were found Guilty of:

- Murder Of The Third Degree
- Endangering Welfare of Children-Parent/Guardian/Other Commits Offense
- Conspiracy- Murder Of The Third Degree

Both [REDACTED] were sentenced on 3/14/2014 on the charges of Murder of Third Degree, Involuntary Manslaughter, Endangering Welfare of Children-Parent/Guardian/Other Commits Offense, Conspiracy-Murder of Third Degree. They are incarcerated pending an appeal.

The children continue to have supervised visits with their parents biweekly at the prison. The children visit each other. The court ordered that the children are to receive routine medical and dental care. Supervised visits with the paternal aunt and uncle should be arranged by DHS. DHS was to explore family as kinship resources. [REDACTED] identified objectives for the parents: Parents participate in [REDACTED] and to cooperate with all recommended medical treatment for the children.

### **Department Review of County Internal Report:**

The County was not required to hold an Act 33 review [REDACTED]. The agency did hold an internal MDT meeting to address this fatality.

### **Department of Public Welfare Findings:**

- County Strengths: None Identified.
- County Weaknesses: None Identified.
- Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance:

There were no regulatory areas of non-compliance identified.

### **Department of Public Welfare Recommendations:**

The Department recommends that Philadelphia Department of Human Services, the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office and the Philadelphia Adult Probation Department need to work closely together, through liaisons to facilitate inter-agency collaboration in criminal cases where there is a current child welfare concern or a potential child welfare concern.