



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:



Date of Birth: 6-25-11
Date of Incident: 6-16-13
Date of Oral Report: 6-17-13

FAMILY NOT KNOWN TO:

Allegheny County Children, Youth and Family Services

REPORT FINALIZED ON:
12/30/13

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.

Allegheny County has not convened a review team in accordance with Act 33 of 2008 related to this report because the allegations of abuse were unfounded, in a CY-48 dated June 24, 2013, based on a medical examination at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh dated June 17, 2013, in which it was determined that the child's injuries were consistent with an accidental fall and did not suggest any aspect of neglectful supervision.

Family Constellation:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth:</u>
[REDACTED]	Victim Child	06-25-11
[REDACTED]	Father	[REDACTED] 67
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED] 76
[REDACTED]	Sister	[REDACTED] 04
[REDACTED]	Brother	[REDACTED] 98
[REDACTED]	Brother	[REDACTED] 09

Notification of Child (Near) Fatality:

On June 16, 2013, the victim child was taken to Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh with a head injury. [REDACTED] was conducted and showed a [REDACTED]. The child was immediately [REDACTED]. It was reported the child had fallen from a picnic table onto a concrete patio while he was visiting his grandfather's home. The father was present when this incident occurred.

On June 17, 2013, Allegheny County Children, Youth and Family Services received [REDACTED] regarding this incident. Dr. [REDACTED] from Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh reported that the injury did not fit with the story being provided by the family. The child had an old injury to his forehead and when the parents were questioned about the injury they each provided a different version of how the injury was sustained. The mother stated the child hit his head on a slide and the father stated the child hit his head on a wall.

On June 17, 2013, the incident was listed as a near fatality based on Dr. [REDACTED] from Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh stating that the child was in critical condition on arrival and required [REDACTED], and was in serious condition with a suspicion of abuse.

Summary of DPW Child (Near) Fatality Review Activities:

The Western Region Office of Children Youth and Families reviewed the case file provided by Allegheny County Children, Youth, and Family Services, interviewed the intake caseworker and reviewed the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh's [REDACTED] Report dated June 17, 2013.

Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:

There was no Children and Youth involvement prior to the incident.

Circumstances of Child (Near) Fatality and Related Case Activity:

On June 17, 2013, Allegheny County Children, Youth and Family Services caseworkers met with the victim child, alleged perpetrator, child's mother, and physicians at [REDACTED] after receiving a [REDACTED] [REDACTED] stated the child was in serious condition with a suspicion of abuse and named the child's father as the alleged perpetrator.

The physician stated that the child's injuries were "reasonable, accidental" injuries that were not indicative of maltreatment. The physician also reported that the child had no prior history with [REDACTED], the child's prognosis was good, and the child should be [REDACTED] within a week.

On June 17, 2013, the Allegheny County Children, Youth and Family Services caseworker met with the victim child's mother, siblings, maternal grandfather, and step-maternal grandmother at the home of origin. An In-Home Safety Assessment Worksheet was completed on that day and identified no safety threats. There was adequate food, functional utilities and unobstructed walkways.

The CY 48 was filed on June 24, 2013 with a determination of unfounded.

Current Case Status:

The child [REDACTED] on June 19, 2013. The CY 48 was filed on June 24, 2013 with a determination of unfounded and the case was closed on July 2, 2013.

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

A review team was not convened because the allegations of abuse were unfounded, in a CY-48 dated June 24, 2013, based on a medical examination at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh on June 17, 2013 in which it was determined that the child's injuries were consistent with an accidental fall and did not suggest any aspect of neglectful supervision.

Department Review of County Internal Report:

The Department did not receive an internal report from Allegheny County Children, Youth and Families.

Department of Public Welfare Findings:

The review did not identify any compliance issues with statutes and regulations. The Western Region Office of Children, Youth and Families concluded that Allegheny County Children, Youth and Family Services followed appropriate protocol in regards to the investigation of the suspicion of abuse.

Department of Public Welfare Recommendations:

The Department has no recommendations to the county in changing their practices for this case. There were no practice issues or concerns on how the case was conducted.