



## REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:

[REDACTED]

**Date of Birth:** 06/23/2011

**Date of Incident:** 01/06/2016

**Date of Report to ChildLine:** 01/07/2016

**CWIS Referral ID:** [REDACTED]

**FAMILY WAS NOT KNOWN TO COUNTY CHILDREN AND YOUTH AGENCY AT TIME OF INCIDENT OR WITHIN THE PRECEDING 16 MONTHS:**

**DELAWARE COUNTY CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

**REPORT FINALIZED ON:**

08/10/2016

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. Section 6349 (b))

**Reason for Review:**

Pursuant to the Child Protective Services Law, the Department, through OCYF, must conduct a review and provide a written report of all cases of suspected child abuse that result in a 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.

The Child Protective Services Law also requires that county children and youth agencies convene a review when a report of child abuse involving a fatality or near fatality is substantiated or when a status determination has not been made regarding the report within 30 days of the report to ChildLine.

Delaware County has not convened a review team in accordance with the Child Protective Services Law related to this report. The allegation was determined to be Unfounded within 30 days of the report, on 01/29/2016.

**Family Constellation:**

<u>First and Last Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
[REDACTED]	Victim Child	06/23/2011
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED] 1985
[REDACTED]	Twin Sibling	[REDACTED] 2011
* [REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED] 2008
[REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED] 2007
* [REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED] 2004
[REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED] 2003
[REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED] 2002
[REDACTED]	Sibling	[REDACTED] 2000
* [REDACTED]	Grandparent	[REDACTED] 1961
[REDACTED]	Maternal Aunt	[REDACTED] 1983
[REDACTED]	Maternal Cousin	age 6

\* Denotes an individual that is not a household member or did not live in the home at the time of the incident, but is relevant to the report.

**Summary of OCYF Child Near Fatality Review Activities:**

The Southeast Regional Office of Children, Youth and Families obtained and reviewed all current and past case records pertaining to the family. There was no Act 33 Review. The case was determined to be Unfounded on 01/29/2016 because the reporting doctor at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia conducted a full examination and found no evident signs of abuse.

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

There was no prior Children and Youth involvement in Pennsylvania, prior to this incident. The family self-reported they had Children and Youth Services (CYS) involvement in Texas, prior to moving to Pennsylvania. The prior CYS involvement resulted in six children moving in with relatives due to a history of domestic violence with the biological parents, and the mother [REDACTED] as a result of the domestic violence. The victim child has a history of prematurity [REDACTED]. The victim child currently has developmental and speech delays. She is currently residing with her mother and a few of her siblings in the maternal aunt's home. The mother stated that there was also an incident when her son went to school dirty and with a worn dirty outfit in his school bag and the school had concerns for neglect. She reported that her son took his favorite outfit out of the hamper and she did not know that he took the outfit to school.

The mother states that due to the report being made to CPS in Texas, she was subsequently arrested for Child Endangerment. She states she spent a few hours in prison and was later released. The mother stated that while in Texas, CPS gave her an option of having her children reside with a family member and that is when her children were placed with relatives. She reported that the victim child's biological father is not involved due to the previous Domestic Violence issues, and she reports he is currently residing in New York. The mother denies that she is in a current relationship and stated that her only relationship is with her children. She stated that she is currently unemployed [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] She denies that she or any family members have any issues with drug or alcohol abuse.

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

The victim child is a 4-year-old female who presented to the CHOP emergency department on 01/06/2016 with abdominal pain and vomiting after being "pushed by her twin brother". While in the CHOP Emergency Department, she was found to have [REDACTED]. At this time, the victim child's injury was concerning for suspected physical abuse and/or supervisory neglect due to the severity of her injury. The mother reported that on 01/06/2016 the victim child informed her that her twin brother pushed her into the steps. The mother reported the victim child and her twin brother were playing in the playroom in the basement when the injury occurred. She did not witness the event and stated that the victim child came upstairs from the basement and stated that her brother pushed her into the steps and the child stated that her stomach hurt. The mother states that she kissed her abdominal area and the victim child stated that she was "all good", and the mother reported that the victim child went to bed as normal and at 4:00 AM she woke up and began vomiting a "syrupy" substance. The mother reported that the victim child then went back to sleep and woke up the next morning in pain and she kept saying that her stomach hurt. The mother stated that due to the victim child not acting her normal self she knew that something was wrong and she called

her Primary Care Physician and the physician recommended that the victim child be brought to the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Emergency Department (CHOP ED). The family was referred to CYS due to the victim child having [REDACTED]

**Summary of County Strengths, Deficiencies and Recommendations for Change as Identified by the County's Child Near Fatality Report:**

- Strengths in compliance with statutes, regulations and services to children and families;

Delaware County has fulfilled the requirements of the 3490 regulations.

- Deficiencies in compliance with statutes, regulations and services to children and families;

There were none noted.

- Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on reducing the likelihood of future child fatalities and near fatalities directly related to abuse;

There were no recommendations made in this area because the family was not known to the county, and the injury was determined to be accidental.

- Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on monitoring and inspection of county agencies;

There were no recommendations made in this area.

- Recommendations for changes at the state and local levels on collaboration of community agencies and service providers to prevent child abuse.

There were no recommendations made in this area.

**Department Review of County Internal Report:**

Given that the report was unfounded within the first 30 days of investigation, Delaware County was not required to hold an Act 33 Meeting. Hence, no County Internal Report was completed.

**Department of Human Services Findings:**

- County Strengths:

Delaware County did a great job of conducting and completing this investigation in a timely manner. The county also did a great job informing

the family of benefits and services available to them, after pointing out their responsibilities in a protective role as caregivers, who were emotionally able to intervene to protect the child.

- County Weaknesses:

There were none noted

- Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance by the County Agency.

There were none noted

### **Department of Human Services Recommendations:**

The Department recommends that the counties and agencies reach out to families and encourage the reporting of families who have experienced domestic violence and the trauma that results from that violence. Since the family had the knowledge that the children had been removed from the mother in Texas, prior to coming to Pennsylvania, there could be some kind of public awareness in the form of Public Service Announcements, or written material available in the Primary Care Physician's offices as well as in the offices of Pediatricians, encouraging the reporting and making referrals for evaluations and treatment of these family members.