



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

**OFFICE OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES**

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**REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:**



**DATE OF BIRTH: 06/05/2007**  
**DATE OF NEAR FATALITY INCIDENT: 05/14/11**

**FAMILY WAS NOT KNOWN TO  
ANY COUNTY OR SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCY.**

**REPORT FINALIZED ON: May 25, 2012**

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 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. Philadelphia County has not convened a review team in accordance with Act 33 of 2008 related to this report. The [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] within 30 days of the oral report.

**Family Constellation:**

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth:</u>
[REDACTED]	Victim Child	06/05/2007
[REDACTED]	Biological Brother	[REDACTED]/2000
[REDACTED]	Biological Sister	[REDACTED]2003
[REDACTED]	Biological Mother	[REDACTED]1977
[REDACTED]	Maternal Grandmother	Adult
[REDACTED]	Maternal Grandfather	Adult
[REDACTED]	Maternal Great Grandmother	Adult

**Non-Household Members:**

[REDACTED]	Biological father	[REDACTED]1979
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**Notification of Child Near Fatality:**

On May 15, 2011 the Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS) received a report from [REDACTED] concerning 3-year-old [REDACTED]. On May 14, 2011, [REDACTED] was transported to St. Christopher's Hospital for Children by ambulance due to falling out of the second floor window. [REDACTED] had multiple [REDACTED]. His [REDACTED]. The doctors reported that [REDACTED] was expected to survive. The case was not initially processed as a near fatality, as the child's physician, Dr. [REDACTED] did not certify that the child was in critical condition. Also the Doctor did not feel that the incident was the result of [REDACTED]. The incident was [REDACTED].

On May 23, 2011, the Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS) received a supplemental report from [REDACTED] indicating that the [REDACTED] report was now considered a near fatality. The hospital realized that the child's condition was a near fatality based on the injuries that the child sustained.

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

The Southeast Region Office of Children, Youth and Families obtained and reviewed all current [REDACTED] files pertaining to the [REDACTED] family. Follow up interviews were conducted with the Caseworker, [REDACTED], and the casework supervisor, [REDACTED], on May 27, 2011.

#### **Summary of Services to Family:**

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

There has not been any children and youth involvement prior to the incident.

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

On May 15, 2011, Philadelphia Department of Human Services received a report from [REDACTED] concerning 3 year old [REDACTED]. The initial report did not certify the child as a near fatality. DHS responded and assessed the current safety of the child. The Safety Assessment dated May 15, 2011, for [REDACTED] determined that no safety threats were present. It was determined that [REDACTED] was safe in the hospital.

DHS also assessed the safety of the child's older siblings, ages 11 and 8. The Safety Assessment dated May 19, 2011, for those children, determined that no safety threats were present. The safety decision determined that both children were safe in the home.

On May 23, 2011, Philadelphia Department of Human Services received a report from [REDACTED] informing that the case was certified as a near fatality. After the hospital received clarification regarding the certification of a near fatality, it was determined by the medical department that the child was in a near fatality state. With this particular case there was not clarity with the medical staff and the child protection program within the hospital. The medical staff thought that the child protection program was responsible for the certification based on [REDACTED]. This has been clarified with the hospital.

The [REDACTED] was filed on 6/1/11 and [REDACTED]. It was determined that the incident was an accident. The [REDACTED] determined that mother had a birthday party for 8-year-old [REDACTED] informed mother that he had to go to the bathroom. Mother

reported that she thought he would only be a second. She reported that she was listening out for him. Mother then noticed that he was in maternal grandmother's bedroom as she could hear him speaking to their dog. Their dog was located outside in the back of the house in the backyard. She immediately went upstairs and noticed that [REDACTED] was not in any of the rooms. She noticed the window was up in the maternal grandmother's bedroom. Mother then looked out of the window and saw child lying on the ground. She immediately called 911 for assistance. Mother stated during the interview that it was an accident and she never thought this would happen to her son. She was distraught throughout the interview. Mother remained at [REDACTED] bedside throughout his hospitalization.

The [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] were interviewed regarding the incident. Both children were unable to give details of the incident as they were downstairs when [REDACTED] fell out of the window. Both children were extremely upset over the incident.

The maternal grandparents were interviewed. They were not in the home at the time of the incident. They were in the neighborhood visiting friends. The maternal grandmother reported that she received a frantic call from her daughter, [REDACTED] and she and her husband came running back to the house. When she arrived, the paramedics were taking [REDACTED] to the hospital; she and her husband followed the ambulance to the hospital.

The biological father of [REDACTED] was interviewed. Father reported that he was not in the home at the time of the incident. Father does not reside in the home. Father is very involved with [REDACTED] and reported that he and [REDACTED] have shared custody of the child. Father remained by his son throughout the hospitalization.

On May 25, 2011 [REDACTED] from St. Christopher's Hospital and [REDACTED] in the Weismann Rehabilitation Center.

The maternal grandmother immediately placed metal bars on the upstairs windows to prevent future accidents.

**Current Case Status:**

The case is closed with Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS). The [REDACTED]. The [REDACTED] determined that the incident was accidental.

The family received three months of [REDACTED] to address parenting a [REDACTED] child and supervision of young children. The [REDACTED] were received through Lutheran Children and Family Services.

