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**REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF**



**BORN: 7/18/09**  
**DATE OF NEAR FATALITY: 1/2/10**

**FAMILY KNOWN TO:**

Northampton County Department of Human Services  
Children and Youth Division

**REPORT DATED 5/25/10**

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 fatality and near child fatality 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]	Child	7/18/09
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	Father	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	Maternal grandmother	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	Maternal grandfather	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	Maternal grandfather's wife	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] father	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] mother	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] daughter	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] daughter	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	Paternal grandmother	[REDACTED]

**Notification of Fatality / Near Fatality:**

On 1/2/10 [REDACTED] that the child was taken to the hospital via ambulance. The child's father [REDACTED] caring for the child while the child's mother was at work. Father [REDACTED] dropping the child on the floor after the child poked him in the eye. [REDACTED] child's injuries were not consistent with father's explanation.

**Documents Reviewed and Individuals Interviewed:**

The [REDACTED] was conducted by the county agency. The NERO investigation consisted of a review of the [REDACTED] file, interviews with Northampton County Department of Human Services, Children and Youth Division staff and participation in a MDT meeting regarding the child.

**Case Chronology:**

On January 2, 2010 Northampton County Department of Human Services Children and Youth Division received a referral [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] that stated that the child [REDACTED] child's injuries weren't consistent with father's explanation.

On January 2, 2010 Northampton County Department of Human Services Children and Youth Division's on call caseworker went to the [REDACTED] Hospital, [REDACTED]. The on call caseworker went to the hospital to assess the child.

A safety plan was developed [REDACTED]

On January 4, 2010 [REDACTED] caseworker went to the [REDACTED] Hospital where she met staff at the hospital and saw the child. The caseworker met the child's mother and paternal grandmother while at the hospital. [REDACTED] scheduled a home assessment for later on that day.

On January 4, 2010 the caseworker conducted an announced home assessment to the child's mother's home. The child's mother resides with the child and the child's maternal grandmother. The caseworker interviewed the child's mother and maternal grandmother. [REDACTED] she dropped the child off at his father's house prior to going to work. [REDACTED] was at work at the time of the incident. [REDACTED] received a telephone call from the child's father [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] immediately drove to the hospital. [REDACTED] arrived at the hospital staff was about to [REDACTED] child [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The caseworker reviewed the safety plan with the child's mother.

On January 4, 2010 the caseworker conducted an unannounced visit to the child's father's home. The Child's father resides with the child's paternal grandmother. [REDACTED] The caseworker scheduled an interview for January 5, 2010.

On January 4, 2010 the caseworker completed a CY-104 to notify law enforcement of the report.

On January 5, 2010, the child's father arrived at Northampton County Department of Human Services Children and Youth Division [REDACTED] The caseworker interviewed the child's father and paternal grandmother. [REDACTED] on 1/2/10 the child's mother dropped the child off at [REDACTED] around 9 AM. At approximately 9AM, the child's father had fed and changed the child, then placed him in a bouncer to nap. The child's father left the child alone for 45 minutes while he took a bath. At approximately 11AM the child's father was holding his son and was attempting to bottle feed him. The child's father was sitting on a bed with the child facing him when the child flailed and poked the child's father in the eye. [REDACTED] the pain from the child poking [REDACTED] in his eye was so severe that it caused [REDACTED] to drop the child. The

child hit his head on a carpeted floor. The caseworker noted that the child's father wears glasses. [REDACTED] the child began to cry and swelling of his head was noted. [REDACTED] the child's paternal grandmother was home at the time of the incident. [REDACTED] immediately ran for help when the child fell. The child's paternal grandmother immediately came out of her bedroom to assist the child's father. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The child's father immediately called the ambulance.

After the child's father dropped the child, he was taken to the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] due to his injuries. [REDACTED] the examining physician spoke to the child's mother and the child's paternal grandmother to discuss the cause of the child's injury. Neither was able to provide information. The child's father entered the room and was able to provide a history of the incident to the physician. The physician asked the child's father whether or not he was wearing his glasses at the time of the incident and he stated yes. No injury was observed to his eye. [REDACTED]

The caseworker interviewed the child's [REDACTED] [REDACTED] did not provide information about the current incident. [REDACTED]

On January 5, 2010 the caseworker reviewed this case with administrative staff. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On January 6, 2010 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the caseworker re-interviewed the child's mother [REDACTED] dropped the child off at the child's father's home around 8:45 AM on 1/2/10. [REDACTED] The child was supposed to stay with the child's father for the weekend, but she received a message around 10:30 AM informing her that she should come pick the child up today because the child's father was sick and did not want get the child sick. [REDACTED] she replied ok. [REDACTED] at 11:50 AM [REDACTED] cell phone registered 2 missed calls from the child's father. [REDACTED] she called him back right away [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the child fell, has 2 lumps on his head and is bleeding from his nose. The child's mother left work and arrived at the child's father's home the same time as the police, the ambulance arrived a short time later. [REDACTED] the child was in a car seat upon arrival to the child's father's home. [REDACTED] a bump on the right side of the child's head. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the child was crying very loudly. The child's paternal grandmother rode in the ambulance with the child, while the child's mother and the child's father followed the ambulance. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] once she arrived at the hospital she grabbed the child and the child was examined by the physicians. [REDACTED]

February 2, 2010 the caseworker reviewed this case with administrative staff. [REDACTED]

On February 3, 2010 [REDACTED]

The child's mother and the child are staying with the child's maternal grandfather.

[REDACTED]

address any parenting concerns, safety issues and or medical issues. Both parents are participating in parenting education.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On February 17, 2010 the caseworker conducted an unannounced home visit to the child's mother's home. No concerns were reported.

On February 17, 2010 [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] The child's mother passed the polygraph examination, no services were recommended for the child's mother at this time.

[REDACTED]

On February 19, 2010 the caseworker reviewed this case with administrative staff. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On February 23, 2010 the [REDACTED] the bed that the child's father referred to is actually a mattress that is on the floor with no box spring or bed frame. The mattress is only about 1 foot tall. [REDACTED] the child's father wears glasses and was wearing glasses at the time of the incident. [REDACTED] the child's injuries are not consistent with the child's father's explanation.

**Previous Children and Youth Involvement:**

The family was involved with Northampton County Department of Human Services, Children and Youth Division on August 5, 2009 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was involved with the family to address parenting issues. [REDACTED] was involved with the family for approximately 4 weeks. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] provided her information for other social service agencies in the community for future reference.

The child was referred for follow up medical assessments. [REDACTED]

**Circumstances of the Child's Fatality or Near Fatality:**

The incident occurred at the child's father's home. The child's mother dropped the child off at the child's father's home on January 2, 2010 while she went to work. [REDACTED] the incident occurred in his bedroom. At approximately 9AM, The child's father had fed and changed the child, then placed him in a bouncer to nap. The child's father left the child alone for 45 minutes while he took a bath. At approximately 11AM the child's father was holding the child and was attempting to bottle feed him. The child's father was sitting with the child facing him when the child flailed and poked the child's father in the eye. [REDACTED] the pain from the child poking him in his eye was so severe that it caused him to drop the child. The child hit his head allegedly on a carpeted floor. The child's father wears glasses. The child began to cry and swelling of his head was noted.

After the child's father dropped the child, the child was taken to the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] due to his injuries. The examining physician spoke to the child's mother and paternal grandmother to discuss the cause of the child's injury. Neither was able to provide information. The father entered the room and was able to provide a history of the incident to the physician. The physician asked father whether or not he was wearing his glasses at the time of the incident and he stated yes. No injury was observed to his eye.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The child was certified to be in serious critical condition.

**Current / Most Recent Status of Case**

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- The child remains in the care of his mother with the stipulation that she must reside with maternal grandfather until further assessment. [REDACTED] provide parenting education to both parents, [REDACTED]
- Law enforcement (LEO) was notified of the allegations; criminal charges are pending the outcome of the criminal investigation.

**Statutory and Regulatory Compliance**

As a result of the Department of Public Welfare, Office of Children, Youth, and Families, Northeast Region's review of the circumstances surrounding the child's near fatality incident including the [REDACTED] file and corresponding family file, it was determined that during the previous [REDACTED] on this child [REDACTED], Northampton County Department of Human Services, Children and Youth Division is in violation of Chapter 3490 and the Safety Assessment and Management Process. The agency was cited for non compliance in those areas.

As a result of the DPW review of the circumstances surrounding the child's current near fatality incident [REDACTED] file and corresponding family file, it was determined that the Northampton County Department of Human Services Children and Youth Division conducted safety assessments and risk assessments accurately. The investigation was conducted in a timely manner. The family has been accepted for services.

**Findings:**

The family was involved with Northampton County Department of Human Services, Children and Youth Division in August 2009 ([REDACTED])

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was involved with the family to address parenting issues. [REDACTED] was involved with the family for approximately 4 weeks. [REDACTED] father did not participate in services. [REDACTED] provided her information for other social service agencies in the community for future reference.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the [REDACTED] investigation revealed that the bed that father referred to is actually a mattress that is on the floor with no box spring or bed frame. The mattress is only about 1 foot tall. The investigation also determined that father wears glasses and was wearing glasses at the time of the incident. The medical examination reveals that child's injuries are not consistent with father's explanation. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The family has been accepted for services.

**Recommendations:**

- It is recommended that the agency complete an assessment within 60 calendar days to determine whether or not the child and family should be accepted for general protective services or close the case.
- Safety assessments shall be done with contacts at the necessary intervals.