



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

REPORT ON THE FATALITY OF:

MAX DEITLE

Date of Birth: 05/08/2012

Date of Incident: 08/29/2013

Date of Death: 09/06/2013

Date of Oral Report: 09/17/2013

FAMILY NOT KNOWN TO:

Cambria County Children and Youth Services

REPORT FINALIZED ON:

11/05/2013

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. Cambria County convened a review team on October 10, 2013 in accordance with Act 33 of 2008 related to this report.

Family Constellation:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Date of Birth:</u>
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED] 1967
[REDACTED]	Father	[REDACTED] 1961
Max Deitle	Son (victim child)	05/08/2012
[REDACTED]	Sister	[REDACTED] 1991
[REDACTED]	Sister	[REDACTED] 1993
[REDACTED]	Sister	[REDACTED] 1995
[REDACTED]	Sister	[REDACTED] 1997
[REDACTED]	Brother	[REDACTED] 2000
[REDACTED]	Sister	[REDACTED] 2001
[REDACTED]	Sister	[REDACTED] 2003
[REDACTED]	Sister	[REDACTED] 2008

Notification of Child (Near) Fatality:

Cambria County Children and Youth Services (CYS) received a [REDACTED] on the victim child's death on 09/17/2013. The [REDACTED] indicated that the child, Max Deitle, was found in the family's swimming pool on 08/29/2013 and he passed away on 09/06/2013. [REDACTED] that resulted in the child's death.

The Department of Public Welfare, Office of Children, Youth and Families (DPW/OCYF) Central Region was notified of the report and fatality of the child on 09/17/2013.

Summary of DPW Child (Near) Fatality Review Activities:

The Central Region Office of Children, Youth and Families obtained and reviewed case records pertaining to the [REDACTED] death of Max Deitle and to the [REDACTED] family. The County's [REDACTED]

She reported that she pulled the child out of the pool and yelled for her daughter to call 911. Records indicate the daughter started to perform CPR on the child. Members of the [REDACTED] Fire Department were first to arrive at the scene and assumed the task of performing CPR on the child. The emergency medical technicians with the [REDACTED] Ambulance Associate indicated that the child was unconscious and unresponsive upon their arrival and assumed the treatment of the child.

It is important to note that the involvement of Cambria County CYC was initiated on 09/17/2013, 19 days from the drowning incident on 08/29/2013. Due to this fact, the CYC agency needed to obtain documentation [REDACTED] from local law enforcement and from the local ambulance service that occurred on the day of the incident. Emergency responders from [REDACTED] Borough Police, [REDACTED] Township Police, [REDACTED] Fire Department and [REDACTED] Area Ambulance Association were at the scene the day of the incident. Interview notes indicate that [REDACTED] statements on the events leading up to the drowning of her son were consistent with the information that the Cambria County CYC obtained at the onset of their investigation. A trooper with the [REDACTED] Borough Police Department interviewed the daughter, and her statements also supported the mother's recall of events. As Cambria County CYC investigation of the incident proceeded, medical practitioners from the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh also stated what the child's mother told them of the circumstances of the drowning, and again, the statements were congruent with her responses during other interviews.

Max Deitle was transported to Conemaugh Hospital by ambulance. [REDACTED]

He was subsequently transported by life flight to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh (CHOP). It is documented that the child had [REDACTED]. The doctors in charge of the child's care stated [REDACTED]. The medical practitioners were unable to give an [REDACTED], but did report that [REDACTED] indicated that there was no [REDACTED].

[REDACTED]. On 09/03/13, [REDACTED] completed a [REDACTED] on the child which demonstrated an absence of [REDACTED]; however, a [REDACTED] study demonstrated [REDACTED]. Over the next 48 hours, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] developed. Max Deitle's parents elected to [REDACTED] his care. [REDACTED] Max Deitle was [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He died on 09/06/2013. According to the [REDACTED] County's Coroner's Office, no autopsy was performed on Max Deitle due to no suspicion of [REDACTED]. A copy of the child's death certificate lists Max Deitle's cause of death as drowning.

Records indicate that [REDACTED] had a family member install a gate to the swimming pool within 48 hours of the incident. He also closed in the open areas of the deck to ensure there were no open areas to the pool. Cambria County CYC determined [REDACTED] on 10/10/2013. The drowning of Max Deitle was characterized as a tragic accident.

Current Case Status:

Cambria County Children and Youth Services compiled information on the stages of grief and loss for [REDACTED]. The information also included [REDACTED] that may assist the [REDACTED] children and a list of [REDACTED]. At the time of this report, there is no formal involvement with the CYS agency and [REDACTED] family.

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

- Strengths:
 - The agency's ability to engage law enforcement and medical practitioners was vital in their attempts to gather required documentation from when the incident occurred.
 - Though services for the family were not initiated, the CYS agency utilized a social worker to meet with the family to review a compiled list of therapeutic resources that may aid the [REDACTED] family in the grieving process.

- Deficiencies:
 - No deficiencies were identified.

- Recommendations for Change at the Local Level:
 - No recommendations were identified.

- Recommendations for Change at the State Level:
 - No recommendations were identified.

Department Review of County Internal Report:

The report from Cambria County CYS was received by the Regional Office on 10/16/2013. The report details the topics that were discussed during the Fatality Review Meeting held on 10/10/2013. The CYFS agency conducted the investigation and ensured that the Cambria County District Attorney's Office was informed of their progress and final outcome. There were no deficiencies identified. During the Fatality Review Meeting, a Police Officer representing the [REDACTED] Township Police Department stated that their investigation was complete and that there were no charges to be filed in this case.

Department of Public Welfare Findings:

- County Strengths:
 - Cambria County CYS was quick in informing the OCYF Central Region office of the ChildLine report that involved the death of Max Deitle.

- The agency has an effective MDT community team; members of which represent a wide array of community services and supports. The MDT team was supportive of the agency's response and actions to the report on Max Deitle.
- Collaboration was evident between the agency, medical representatives, emergency responders, and law enforcement.
- County Weaknesses:
 - No deficiencies were identified.
- Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance:
 - All regulations regarding CPS investigation followed.

Department of Public Welfare Recommendations:

The Regional Office completed interviews and obtained records as required. The agency offered [REDACTED] resource to the family and immediately ensured the safety of the children in the home when the report was received. The [REDACTED] family is not active with Cambria County CYS. The Regional Office has no recommendations at this time.