



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: 05/27/10**  
**DATE OF NEAR FATALITY: 05/30/11**

**Family was not known to any county agency**

**REPORT FINALIZED ON: 3/30/12**

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 convened a review team in accordance with Act 33 of 2008 related to this report on July 15, 2011.

**Family Constellation:**Name:

[REDACTED]

Relationship:

Victim Child  
Biological Mother  
Biological Father  
Sister

Date of Birth:

05/27/10  
[REDACTED] 1988  
[REDACTED] 1979  
[REDACTED] 2008

**Notification of Child Near Fatality:**

On May 30, 2011, The Philadelphia Department of Human Services received a call from [REDACTED] concerning one-year-old [REDACTED] Dr. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] of St. Christopher's Hospital in Philadelphia certified that the child was in critical condition. The child fell off the bed. She fell 21 inches on to a hard wood floor. The child suffered head injuries.

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

The Southeast Regional Office of Children, Youth and Families obtained and reviewed all current case records pertaining to the [REDACTED]. SERO participated in state review of the case on June 13, 2011 and July 7, 2011. Follow up interviews were conducted with the [REDACTED] and SERO participated in the Act 33 review on July 15, 2011.

**Summary of Services to Family:****Children and Youth Involvement prior to Incident:**

Prior to the incident there was no children and youth agency involvement.

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

On May 30, 2011 [REDACTED] was in the home with her parents (Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED]) and older sibling ([REDACTED]). According to [REDACTED], [REDACTED] fell off of the bed (about two feet) onto a very thin carpet (no padding). The parents picked up the crying child and she vomited and fainted. The parents called 911 and performed CPR. The child was transported to St. Christopher's Hospital emergency room. The child was [REDACTED] and it was determined that she received a [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] Doctor ([REDACTED]) believed that that the injury to the child was not consistent with the explanation of a fall from a bed. Dr. [REDACTED] certified the child to be in critical condition at the time of her admission.

**Current Case Status:**

On June 1, 2011, the child was [REDACTED] for [REDACTED] from St. Christopher's Hospital of Philadelphia. On June 2, 2011 the child was [REDACTED] home to parents. On June 2, 2011, Philadelphia DHS transported the mother and child home. The Social Worker ([REDACTED]) counseled mother regarding proper supervision of the child and parent education. The Social Worker stressed the need for safety devices. The home assessment was completed on June 2, 2011 and the home was found to be safe and suitable. On June 2, 2011, the father obtained safety devices (gates, baby walker, playpen and pad/mats) for the child's safety. The safety assessment confirmed the following: no present safety threats in the home, the home is safe and suitable for children and the parents have purchased and installed all recommended safety devices. On June 3, 2011, the safety assessment was signed by the DHS Supervisor ([REDACTED]).

On June 7, 2011 DHS submitted the [REDACTED]. The report determined the case to be [REDACTED] for [REDACTED]. The incident was [REDACTED] to be an accident. On June 8, 2011 DHS made a final home visit to [REDACTED] the case. Mother was found to be using all safety devices. DHS noted no safety threats in the home or risk factors, found the home to be suitable for children, and no serious conditions in the family. Parents found a licensed day care center for the child to attend on June 13, 2011.

On June 15, 2011, the Act 33 meeting was held and the decertification request made by Dr. [REDACTED] was denied because she initially certified that the child was in critical condition as a result of an incident of [REDACTED].

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

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 convened

a review team in accordance with Act 33 of 2008 related to this report. The meeting was conducted on July 15, 2011.

**Strengths:** DHS provided support and recommendations (safety equipment: walker, playpen, mats/pads and gates) to ensure the safety of the child in the home. The family was referred to [REDACTED]

- **Deficiencies:** No deficiencies were identified.
- **Recommendations for Change at the Local Level:** None
- **Recommendations for Change at the State Level:** None

**Department Review of County Internal Report:**

The DPW-SERO has reviewed the county report and is in agreement with their findings.

**Department of Public Welfare Findings:**

- **County Strengths:** DHS did a very good job of [REDACTED] the case. The Social Worker's notes were very detailed and the safety assessments were completed according to policy.
- **County Weaknesses:** None noted at this time.
- **Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance:** None noted at this time.

**Department of Public Welfare Recommendations:**

DPW-SERO agrees with the ACT 33 Team regarding concerns about the issue of reporting a near fatality and how the DHS hotline staff should be approaching the question of whether or not a case is a near fatality. The ACT 33 Team has recommended that DHS develop a standardized set of questions when asking the doctor to certify a case, and DPW-SERO is in agreement with this recommendation.