



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

OFFICE OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

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REPORT ON THE DEATH OF

DASAAN BUTLER

BORN: 05/07/03

DIED: 12/09/09

**FAMILY KNOWN TO:
THE FAMILY WAS PREVIOUSLY KNOWN TO THE PHILADELPHIA
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES.**

Report Finalized On: MAY 20, 2010

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 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 fatalities and near child fatalities 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.¹

1. Family Constellation:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
Butler, Dasaan	Victim Child	05/07/03
[REDACTED]	Biological Mother	[REDACTED]/79
[REDACTED]	Biological Father	[REDACTED]/66

Other family members

[REDACTED]	Biological Sister	[REDACTED] 98
[REDACTED]	lives with maternal grandmother	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	maternal grandmother	[REDACTED]

Notification of Fatality / Near Fatality:

On December 9, 2009 paramedics arrived at the residence, [REDACTED] and found Dasaan deceased. Dasaan was cold and stiff and appeared to have been deceased for quite some time. Dasaan was found in a bedroom, lying on his back. On exam, child was found to have loosened front teeth and a mouth full of coagulated blood. Dasaan was transported to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and pronounced dead on arrival.

2. Documents Reviewed and Individuals Interviewed:

For this review, SERO reviewed: the Philadelphia Medical Examiner's file, the family's historical file from Philadelphia Department of Human Services, the Philadelphia Department of Human Service's Internal Fatality Review Report; and the Special Victims Unit interviews. SERO interviewed the county [REDACTED] caseworkers for the current investigations. SERO participated in the Act 33 Review on 4/16/2010

Previous CY involvement:

The family became known to the Philadelphia Department of Human Services due to a [REDACTED] report filed on 10/31/05. [REDACTED]

On 11/14/05 [REDACTED] participated in a forensic interview through Philadelphia Children's Alliance, in response to the allegations of sexual abuse. At that time

¹ 23 Pa. C.S. 6343 © (1)-(2).

██████ denied any sexual abuse. ██████ was also evaluated by a physician; the medical report stated that she had no physical evidence of sexual abuse at that time. A safety assessment and risk assessment were completed during the investigation. A safety plan was developed not allowing ██████ (Dasaan's father/ ██████) access to the children. The provider agency was Intercultural Family Services, Inc.

On 11/21/05, the report of ██████. However, the case was opened for services and was transferred to the Family Service Region for implementation of SCOH (Services to Children in their Own Home) services. The family received SCOH services through Intercultural Family Services from December 22, 2005 until March 22, 2007.

Level Two SCOH services were provided in the home through Intercultural Family services to monitor ██████ school attendance and the children's medical care. ██████ had excessive absences from school. She received services that assisted her with the areas of difficulty in her school work. ██████'s attendance improved and she began progressing academically.

On 2/10/06, it was determined through Intercultural Family Services that ██████ (mother) had ██████ in the home alone with the children. The ██████ was ██████ who ██████ has two convictions for child ██████. A Compliance Review was performed at this time and it was determined that ██████ would live with her maternal grandmother. The Compliance Review is a tool completed by the Philadelphia Department of Human Services to ensure that the safety plan is being enforced. The maternal grandmother was granted legal custody of ██████ continues to reside with her maternal grandmother. It was determined that Dasaan was safe with his mother with a safety plan in place. The safety plan was for father of Dasaan to have no contact with children without supervision. ██████ was to enforce the safety plan and Intercultural Family Services was to monitor the enforcement of the safety plan.

On 6/6/06, a home visit was conducted. ██████ indicated that she was no longer with Dasaan ██████ supervising the visitation.

Services through Intercultural Family Services were discharged on March 22, 2007. On 3/28/07, the case was closed.

Circumstances of Child's Fatality:

On December 9, 2009, Philadelphia Department of Human Services received a ██████ report alleging that Dasaan was pronounced dead at CHOP that day. The death appeared suspicious. Mother, ██████, stated that Dasaan was not feeling well the night before. ██████ gave Dasaan ██████ and he went to bed. ██████ found him on his bed, face covered in blood and mouth full of dried blood. His teeth were also loose.

This report [REDACTED] as it was thought that Dasaan's death was a result of an infection and the medical examiner ruled no inflicted trauma.

On March 8, 2010 the medical examiner's office called with the results of Dasaan's toxicology report which indicated that Dasaan died from an overdose of Tramadol, a synthetic pain reliever. [REDACTED] is not typically prescribed to children and Dasaan had no history of any medical condition that would warrant this type of medication. Mother had a prescription for Tramadol for [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] reports that Dasaan had no injuries to his face. [REDACTED] reports it was initially considered suspicious because he had some blood in his mouth and two of his teeth were loose, but it turned out that was just because his permanent teeth were coming in behind them.

A new [REDACTED] report was generated February 8, 2010. Mother told the homicide detective that she saw Dasaan with the bottle of Tramadol in his hands that night but was unaware that he had taken any. [REDACTED] stated that he was aware of the medication and ruled the child's death as an accident. This report was also [REDACTED] due to Dasaan getting to the medication and ingesting it himself. The parents were unaware of Dasaan taking the medication and at the time he was not feeling well so the mother gave him Tylenol and put him to bed. There was no evidence of either parent intentionally giving Dasaan the medication. Dasaan Butler's death was ruled accidental.

On 02/18/10, a home visit was conducted by Philadelphia Department of Human Services. [REDACTED] were present. They were informed that the results of the toxicology test came back and Tramadol was found in Dasaan's system. [REDACTED] stated that she informed the detective that she is currently taking Tramadol for [REDACTED]. She went and got the bottle which confirmed they are prescribed to her. The medication is smaller than an individual tic tac candy and white in color. [REDACTED] stated that she had seen her son with the bottle of Tramadol in his hands that night but was unaware that he had taken any. She did hit him on his hands for touching the medication. The medication has a twist off cap that you have to press down on and turn to get the cap off. Not knowing he had ingested the medication, she gave him Tylenol drops for not feeling well. [REDACTED] was very upset about the results of the tests and became irate with [REDACTED] started blaming [REDACTED] for Dasaan's death and she began to cry. [REDACTED] was asked where she usually keeps her medication and she stated that she keeps it on a high shelf that Dasaan wouldn't be able to get to. [REDACTED] showed a family portrait of Dasaan 2 weeks before he passed. The parents were still grieving the death of their son.

Current / most recent status of case:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] The fatality was determined not to be a result of abuse or neglect.

Services to children and families:

There are no other children in the home of [REDACTED] daughter, [REDACTED] continues to reside in the home of maternal grandmother.

On 02/18/10 Department of Human Services social worker made a home visit and met with maternal grandmother, [REDACTED] is safe with her maternal grandmother. The purpose of the visit was to ensure the safety of [REDACTED] and to address the death of Dasaan.

County Strengths and Deficiencies as identified by the County's Fatality Report:

There were no recommendations given or identified by the county's internal review report. An internal review meeting was held on April 6, 2010

County Recommendations for changes at the Local (County or State) Levels as identified by way of County's Near Fatality Report:

The county did not have an internal review on the first report because the case was [REDACTED] before 30 days and there was no history within 16 months prior to Dasaan's death.

On April 6, 2010, the Philadelphia Department of Human Services held an Internal Fatality Review Meeting. There were no recommendations given or identified by the county's internal review report.

SERO Findings:

County Strengths- There was significant intervention and documentation regarding the allegations of [REDACTED] regarding [REDACTED] was evaluated by a physician, who stated that "she has no [REDACTED] at this time."

There was significant intervention and documentation regarding the death of Dasaan.

When the family became known to the county in 2005 with the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] the investigation determined that the [REDACTED]; however the case was [REDACTED] During the time services were being provided by Intercultural Family Services, Inc. it was reported that [REDACTED] was in the home alone with the children. The perpetrator [REDACTED] had two convictions for [REDACTED]. As a result of this incident and due to concerns with the mother's ability to protect [REDACTED], she was removed from the home and placed with her maternal grandmother, [REDACTED] continues to live with her maternal grandmother.

It was determined that Dasaan was safe in the home with [REDACTED] with a comprehensive safety plan. The social worker requested a letter from [REDACTED] therapist and probation officer for clearance for him to stay with Dasaan without supervision. DHS did receive letters from [REDACTED] therapist and probation officer that stated [REDACTED] would be able to have unsupervised contact with Dasaan.. [REDACTED]

