



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

**OFFICE OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES**

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**REPORT ON THE FATALITY OF**

**Tashaud "Trey" Thompson**

**BORN: April 16, 2007**  
**Date of Death Incident: March 24, 2010**

**The family was known to Allegheny County Children and Youth Services.**

**The family was known to other public/private social service agencies.**

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 by [REDACTED] 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 fatalities that were suspected to have occurred due to 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.

### **Circumstances of Child's Fatality:**

The child, age 2 years, 11 months, died from use of excessive force which [REDACTED] to the head. The child was in the care of his maternal grandmother's boyfriend who is the [REDACTED] of serious [REDACTED]. The maternal grandmother was caring for the child and his sibling for a few days at her home while birth mother attended school. She had left the children in her boyfriend's care during the afternoon hours while she attended to an unrelated [REDACTED]. Upon her return home, she found the child unresponsive on the couch with obvious injuries, and called 911. Paramedics transported the child to the [REDACTED] medical facility where he was diagnosed with [REDACTED]. The child was removed from life support the following day as a result of the injuries and the child died. The hospital made a report of suspected [REDACTED] and questioned the timeline of events given by maternal grandmother, particularly questioning whether there was delay in the notification to 911 for emergency medical response.

The law enforcement investigation resulted in the arrest of maternal grandmother's boyfriend on charges of Homicide and Endangering the Welfare of Children. The [REDACTED] was held for trial on all charges at the preliminary hearing, and he remains incarcerated in the county jail. Per law enforcement, the [REDACTED] stated that he was unaware of how the child's injuries occurred and denied any involvement, stating that the child was asleep on the couch when he had last seen him. He stated that his landlord drove him and the children to a local liquor store earlier that day and that he had purchased a bottle of liquor. When they returned home, he stated that he then fed them, and the child laid on the couch for a nap. Maternal grandmother stated that he told her that he had taken the children to a park and that the child had fallen from a slide. Law enforcement noted that there was a large quantity of alcohol consumed from the purchased bottle of liquor.

## Summary of Review

### Family Constellation:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
Tashaud "Trey" Thompson	Victim Child	04/16/2007
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED]/1986
[REDACTED]	Father	[REDACTED]/1974
[REDACTED]	Sibling (Brother)	[REDACTED]/2008
[REDACTED]	Maternal Grandmother (MGM)	[REDACTED]/1969
[REDACTED]	MGM's Boyfriend [REDACTED]	[REDACTED] 1967

### Documents Reviewed and Individuals Interviewed:

The Office of Children Youth and Families (OCYF) Regional Program Representative reviewed the case file provided by Allegheny County Children, Youth, and Facilities (CYF) for the intake investigation on this family. The file included the investigation summary, demographic information, risk/safety assessment and safety plan, and progress notes. Interviews were conducted with Allegheny County CYF staff, including the intake caseworker and the current intake supervisor. Also reviewed were the medical and forensic records provided by the [REDACTED].

### Case Chronology

The 2 year, 11 months old child and his sibling were left alone with babysitter, [REDACTED] who is the maternal grandmother's (MGM) boyfriend. The MGM cares for the children when the mother attends Job Corps. It is reported that the MGM typically has the children 2-3 days a week and that they usually stay at the mother's home. MGM was to return the children on March 19, 2010, but did not do so because of inclement weather. Mother told the MGM that the children had to come home no later than March 23, 2010, which unfortunately is the date of the incident.

The maternal grandmother had left the children in her boyfriend's care during the afternoon hours while she attended a [REDACTED]. Upon her return home, she found the child unresponsive on the couch with obvious injuries and called 911. The [REDACTED] reported to paramedics that the child had fallen from a sliding board while at the park, and that the incident had occurred 1 ½ to 2 hours prior to paramedics being called.

Clairton Paramedics [REDACTED] the child at the home then transported the child to [REDACTED] alone at 6:30pm where he was diagnosed with [REDACTED].

Once the child arrived at [REDACTED], it was determined that the injuries were a result of [REDACTED] and the child was placed in the [REDACTED] in [REDACTED].

critical condition. Initial evaluations of the child showed that the severity of the injuries were not consistent with the explanation provided by the [REDACTED].

Allegheny County CYF intake worker spoke with parties involved, including CHP social worker, CHP charge nurse, CHP – CAC medical doctor, Allegheny County Detectives and the MGM. The [REDACTED] reported that the child was “[REDACTED]” and had “[REDACTED]” had seen the child and “decided that they were not going to do anything”, and that “it was unlikely that the child would survive”.

During the interview with Allegheny County detectives, it was learned that the [REDACTED] had consumed  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a bottle of gin while babysitting the children. It was also reported that the [REDACTED] “can not remember what happened” and that he often “drinks a lot of alcohol, and has [REDACTED]”.

On March 24, 2010 at 1:15pm, the medical staff began the [REDACTED], including an [REDACTED] with a [REDACTED]. At 5:10pm, the child died after “coding”. Life saving efforts were not successful. The cause of death was ruled [REDACTED].

The MGM's boyfriend was arrested on a bench warrant on March 25, 2010, and formally charged with Criminal Homicide and Endangering the Welfare of a Child on March 26, 2010. At the time of the writing of this report, [REDACTED] awaits trial in the Allegheny County Jail.

The child's sibling remains in the custody of his mother; The CYF Safety Assessment did not note any safety threats in the home of the mother. Further investigation and assessment did not warrant the family being accepted for services. During the assessment phase of the investigation, the County agency ensured alternative choices were provided to the mother for childcare of the surviving sibling. The family was provided supportive services, including but not limited to [REDACTED], and the case was closed.

### **Previous CY involvement**

While the natural family of the child did not have previous involvement with Allegheny County CYF, the mother of the child has a previous history as a child in North Carolina with a maternal great aunt, being placed in her home by Lycoming County Children and Youth Services.

The [REDACTED] has a previous history with Allegheny County CYF, as a child and parent.

### **Compliance with Statutes and Regulations**

The review did not identify compliance issues with statutes and regulations. Allegheny County Children, Youth and Families conducted all reviews as required.

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

- 1) Request for District Attorney's certification of report, given pending criminal proceedings against the [REDACTED]
- 2) Promotion of education to law enforcement first responders to ensure that evidence from the scene and from potential [REDACTED] is secured, to ensure that first responders thoroughly document all observations related to the environment, including persons present at the scene; and,
- 3) Promotion of "When Families Grieve", a guide for parents and caregivers created by Sesame Workshop

**Findings and Recommendations**

After reviewing the case record and interviewing stakeholders, the Western Regional Office of Children, Youth and Families has concluded Allegheny County Children, Youth and Families followed appropriate protocol in regards to the investigation of the aforementioned referral. Child fatality reviews were held as required on April 8, 2010 and June 24, 2010.

At the time of this report, the [REDACTED] investigation was [REDACTED] against the maternal grandmother's boyfriend. Additionally, the investigation remains open with the Allegheny County Detectives. The County agency referred the family for supportive services, including [REDACTED].

Additionally, the Department is in agreement with the County recommendations, as the first responders are a vital part of all investigations of child abuse, whether child welfare or law enforcement professionals. Additionally, it is necessary to assist the family in the [REDACTED] process in difficult times, to include but not be limited to [REDACTED].