



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

REPORT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF:



Date of Birth: 12/17/2011

Date of Incident: 04/17/2012

Date of Oral Report: 04/17/2012

**FAMILY NOT KNOWN TO:
PHILADELPHIA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

REPORT FINALIZED ON: 08/07/2012
Completed by State Reviewer: 4/24/13

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 Child Line 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 Child Line. Philadelphia County has convened a review team in accordance with Act 33 of 2008 related to this report. The Act 33 review meeting was conducted on 05/18/12.

1. Family Constellation:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
[REDACTED]	Mother	[REDACTED]/85
[REDACTED]	Father	[REDACTED]/84
[REDACTED]	Maternal Grandmother	[REDACTED]/62
[REDACTED]	Victim Child	12/17/11

Notification of Near Fatality:

On April 17, 2012, The Department of Human Services (DHS) in Philadelphia County received [REDACTED] regarding victim child, [REDACTED]. Four month old [REDACTED] was brought to Albert Einstein Medical Center's emergency room by his parents. They stated that the child was limp and had been screaming in pain. Upon being examined, the child was found to have [REDACTED] which were the result of non-accidental trauma. The child was taken to St. Christopher's Hospital for Children. It was later determined that the child had [REDACTED]. The child was listed in serious but stable condition.

Summary of Services to Family:

Previous Children and Youth involvement:

At the time of the incident, the family was not known to DHS and therefore was not receiving any DHS services.

Circumstances of Child's Fatality or Near Fatality:

04/17/12 – The child was taken to Albert Einstein Medical Center. The child was found to have [REDACTED] that was consistent with [REDACTED]. The doctors

believed that the child sustained a non-accidental trauma. DHS conducted interviews of both parents. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] During the investigation, it was discovered that the victim child's injuries had occurred within a couple of days of [REDACTED] hospitalization. During that time, the victim child had been in the care of [REDACTED] mother, father and maternal grandmother. The child's mother was found to have text messages on her cell phone which described her level of frustration with the victim child and the lack of father's involvement. Both parents were scheduled to take polygraph tests, however, neither parent showed up to be tested. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Charges have been filed against all three parties: mother, father, and maternal grandmother. Each individual had access to the victim child during the time that the child was injured.

Current / most recent status of case:

The victim child was [REDACTED] and was placed in a medical foster home through Bethany Children's Services. [REDACTED] received in home [REDACTED] services until June 15, 2012 when the services were discontinued due to [REDACTED] progress. DHS will ensure that the victim child receives the required medical follow-up. Philadelphia Special Victims Unit is still actively investigating this matter. Criminal charges are still pending for all three parties: mother, father, maternal grandmother. [REDACTED]

County Strengths and Deficiencies as identified by the County's 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 on 5/8/2012.

- **Strengths:**

The Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) Social Worker did an excellent job investigating this matter. The original MDT Social Worker went out on an unexpected medical leave, and this case was immediately reassigned to prevent any lag time.

- **Deficiencies:**

None noted.

- **Recommendations for Change at the Local Level:**

No recommendations at this time.

- **Recommendations for Change at the State Level:**

No recommendations at this time.

Department Review of County Internal Report:

The Southeast Regional Office received the county report; it was very detailed. The report demonstrated all of the work completed by the DHS worker and his collateral contacts. DHS appears to have done a very good job of accumulating and dispersing information regarding this matter.

Department of Public Welfare Findings:

- County Strengths:

The Social Worker was very professional. He went above and beyond, and frequently visited the child in the hospital and rehabilitation center.

- County Weaknesses:

None noted at this time.

- Statutory and Regulatory Areas of Non-Compliance:

Not applicable.

Department of Public Welfare Recommendations:

DHS will continue to act in a timely manner in all cases. The Social Worker went above and beyond in this matter and ensured that all of the victim's child's needs were met.