



**Report Identification Number: NY-19-039**

**Prepared by: New York City Regional Office**

**Issue Date: Oct 23, 2019**

This report, prepared pursuant to section 20(5) of the Social Services Law (SSL), concerns:

- A report made to the New York Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment (SCR) involving the death of a child.
- The death of a child for whom child protective services has an open case.
- The death of a child whose care and custody or custody and guardianship has been transferred to an authorized agency.
- The death of a child for whom the local department of social services has an open preventive service case.

The Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) is mandated by section 20 of the SSL to investigate or cause for the investigation of the cause and circumstances surrounding the death, review such investigation, and prepare and issue a fatality report in regard to the categories of deaths noted above involving a child, except where a local or regional fatality review team issues a report, as authorized by law.

Such report must include: the cause of death; the identification of child protective or other services provided or actions taken regard to such child and child’s family; any extraordinary or pertinent information concerning the circumstances of the child’s death; whether the child or the child’s family received assistance, care or services from the social services district prior to the child’s death; any action or further investigation undertaken by OCFS or the social services district since the child’s death; and as appropriate, recommendations for local or state administrative or policy changes.

This report contains no information that would identify the deceased child, his or her siblings, the parent, parents, or other persons legally responsible for the child, and any members of the deceased child’s household.

By statute, this report will be forwarded to the social services district, chief county executive officer, chairperson of the local legislative body of the county where the child died and the social services district that had legal custody of the child, if different. Notice of the issuance of this report will be sent to the Speaker of the Assembly and the Temporary President of the Senate of the State of New York.

This report may **only** be disclosed to the public by OCFS pursuant to section 20(5) of the SSL. **It may be released by OCFS only after OCFS has determined that such disclosure is not contrary to the best interests of the deceased child’s siblings or other children in the household.**

OCFS’ review included an examination of actions taken by individual caseworkers and supervisors within the social services district and agencies under contract with the social services district. The observations and recommendations contained in this report reflect OCFS’ assessment and the performance of these agencies.



## Abbreviations

<b>Relationships</b>		
BM-Biological Mother	SM-Subject Mother	SC-Subject Child
BF-Biological Father	SF-Subject Father	OC-Other Child
MGM-Maternal Grand Mother	MGF-Maternal Grand Father	FF-Foster Father
PGM-Paternal Grand Mother	PGF-Paternal Grand Father	DCP-Day Care Provider
MGGM-Maternal Great Grand Mother	MGGF-Maternal Great Grand Father	PGGF-Paternal Great Grand Father
PGGM-Paternal Great Grand Mother	MA/MU-Maternal Aunt/Maternal Uncle	PA/PU-Paternal Aunt/Paternal Uncle
FM-Foster Mother	SS-Surviving Sibling	PS-Parent Sub
CH/CHN-Child/Children	OA-Other Adult	
<b>Contacts</b>		
LE-Law Enforcement	CW-Case Worker	CP-Case Planner
Dr.-Doctor	ME-Medical Examiner	EMS-Emergency Medical Services
DC-Day Care	FD-Fire Department	BM-Biological Mother
CPS-Child Protective Services		
<b>Allegations</b>		
FX-Fractures	II-Internal Injuries	L/B/W-Lacerations/Bruises/Welts
S/D/S-Swelling/Dislocation/Sprains	C/T/S-Choking/Twisting/Shaking	B/S-Burns/Scalding
P/Nx-Poisoning/ Noxious Substance	XCP-Excessive Corporal Punishment	PD/AM-Parent's Drug Alcohol Misuse
CD/A-Child's Drug/Alcohol Use	LMC-Lack of Medical Care	EdN-Educational Neglect
EN-Emotional Neglect	SA-Sexual Abuse	M/FTTH-Malnutrition/Failure-to-thrive
IF/C/S-Inadequate Food/ Clothing/ Shelter	IG-Inadequate Guardianship	LS-Lack of Supervision
Ab-Abandonment	OTH/COI-Other	
<b>Miscellaneous</b>		
IND-Indicated	UNF-Unfounded	SO-Sexual Offender
Sub-Substantiated	Unsub-Unsubstantiated	DV-Domestic Violence
LDSS-Local Department of Social Service	ACS-Administration for Children's Services	NYPD-New York City Police Department
PPRS-Purchased Preventive Rehabilitative Services	TANF-Temporary Assistance to Needy Families	FC-Foster Care
MH-Mental Health	ER-Emergency Room	COS-Court Ordered Services
OP-Order of Protection	RAP-Risk Assessment Profile	FASP-Family Assessment Plan
FAR-Family Assessment Response	Hx-History	Tx-Treatment
CAC-Child Advocacy Center	PIP-Program Improvement Plan	yo- year(s) old
CPR-Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation		



## Case Information

**Report Type:** Child Deceased  
**Age:** 15 year(s)

**Jurisdiction:** Kings  
**Gender:** Male

**Date of Death:** 12/27/2017  
**Initial Date OCFS Notified:** 05/01/2019

## Presenting Information

On 5/1/19, the SCR registered a report that alleged the stepmother (SM) became angry and slapped, hit and punched the fifteen and seventeen-year-old children, and hit the nine-year-old child. It was unknown if the children sustained any visible injuries as a result. The BF was also aware of this and failed to intervene. The fifteen and seventeen-year-old children have expressed suicidal ideations due to the SM's actions. As a result of the treatment by the SM, on 12/26/17, the fifteen-year-old SC committed suicide by hanging himself in the home. The seventeen-year-old sister had also attempted suicide because of the treatment by the SM. On at least one occasion, the BF hit the seventeen-year-old child for unknown reasons.

## Executive Summary

On 5/1/19, the SCR registered a report that alleged DOA/Fatality, EN, and IG of the SC by the step-mother (SM) and the BF. The SC actually died on 12/27/17, but no fatality report was registered with the SCR at that time regarding the SC's death. On 12/28/17, the SCR registered a report that alleged IG of the SC and the SS by the SM and the BF which was unfounded and legally sealed.

During the investigation of the 5/1/19 fatality report, it was revealed that the fifteen-year-old SC committed suicide on 12/27/17, by hanging himself with an extension cord in the family's home. According to case records, the BF found the SC unresponsive in the basement of the family's home. The BF called 911 and then gave the SC CPR. LE arrived at the home, continued CPR on the SC and transported him to the hospital where he was pronounced dead at 9:24PM. At the time of his death, the SC was diagnosed with a clinical health condition and was under the care of a therapist. He was also taking prescribed medication. The autopsy report stated the cause of death was hanging and the manner of death was suicide (hanged self). LE reported there were no signs of criminality and no marks or bruises on the SC other than the marks from him hanging himself. The SC had attempted suicide in October 2017 when he ingested over the counter medication because he felt depressed. He reportedly broke up with his girlfriend in the summer of 2017. A week prior to his passing, the SC saw a picture of his girlfriend on the internet with another guy.

At the time of the fatality, the BF had full custody of the SC and the older SS due to the BM's clinical health condition. The children's BM had significant clinical health challenges and resided in a treatment facility. The BM had supervised visits with her children. The BF and the SM had the nine-year-old SS in common. The SM had an adult child from a previous relationship. Following the SC's suicide, the BF and the SM separated and they lived at two different addresses. The older SS resided with the BF. The BF had weekend visitation with the nine-year-old SS.

ACS initiated the CPS investigation and contacted the family within the required timeframe. ACS reviewed the family's prior CPS history, made home visits and contacted collaterals pertinent to the investigation. The information obtained by ACS revealed the SC committed suicide on 12/27/17. The family received bereavement counseling and were healing from the SC's passing.

On 6/7/19, the SCR registered a subsequent report with the same concerns that have been previously reported and investigated. The investigation of the report by ACS remained active. On 7/9/19, ACS filed an Article 10 Neglect Petition in Kings County Family Court and requested an OOP on behalf of the older SS. The BF and the SM were the respondents in the petition. The court remanded the seventeen-year-old SS. She was placed in the kinship care of the MGM under the auspices of Good Shepherd Services. The younger SS was released to her mother (SM) with COS.



At the time of writing this report, ACS had not determined the CPS fatality investigation. According to the case records, the family had achieved PPRS goals; however, the PPRS case remained open due to the ongoing investigation. The older SS remained in the kinship care of the MGM and no longer had any contact with the SM. The younger SS continued to be in the care of her mother. She attended school regularly and received school based services for learning disability. There were no safety concerns. ACS continued to monitor the family in the Family Services Stage.

## Findings Related to the CPS Investigation of the Fatality

### Safety Assessment:

- **Was sufficient information gathered to make the decision recorded on the:**
  - **Approved Initial Safety Assessment?** Yes
  - **Safety assessment due at the time of determination?** N/A
- **Was the safety decision on the approved Initial Safety Assessment appropriate?** Yes

### Determination:

- **Was sufficient information gathered to make determination(s) for all allegations as well as any others identified in the course of the investigation?** The CPS report had not yet been determined at the time this Fatality report was issued.
- **Was the determination made by the district to unfound or indicate appropriate?** N/A

**Was the decision to close the case appropriate?** N/A

**Was casework activity commensurate with appropriate and relevant statutory or regulatory requirements?** No

**Was there sufficient documentation of supervisory consultation?** Yes, the case record has detail of the consultation.

### Explain:

ACS had not made a determination of the report.

## Required Actions Related to the Fatality

**Are there Required Actions related to the compliance issue(s)?**  Yes  No

<b>Issue:</b>	Pre-Determination/Supervisor Review
<b>Summary:</b>	On 9/17/19, NYCRO contacted ACS and provided technical assistance regarding the pending determination of the allegations of the report; however, ACS failed to acknowledge or respond to NYCRO's outreach.
<b>Legal Reference:</b>	18 NYCRR 432.2(b)(3)(v)
<b>Action:</b>	ACS must submit a PIP within 45 days that identifies the action the agency will take or took to address the citations identified in the fatality report. ACS must meet with the staff involved with this



fatality investigation and inform NYCRO of the date of the meeting, who attended and what was discussed.

**Issue:** Adequacy of Progress Notes

**Summary:** During NYCRO's monitoring of this investigation, it was noted that documentation in the progress notes were weeks behind and supervisory directives were not followed. There has not been any documented activity on this case since early August, 2019.

**Legal Reference:** 18 NYCRR 428.5

**Action:** ACS must submit a PIP within 45 days that identifies the action the agency will take or took to address the citations identified in the fatality report. ACS must meet with the staff involved with this fatality investigation and inform NYCRO of the date of the meeting, who attended and what was discussed.

## Fatality-Related Information and Investigative Activities

### Incident Information

**Date of Death:** 12/27/2017

**Time of Death:** 09:24 PM

**County where fatality incident occurred:**

Kings

**Was 911 or local emergency number called?**

Yes

**Time of Call:**

08:47 PM

**Did EMS respond to the scene?**

Yes

**At time of incident leading to death, had child used alcohol or drugs?**

No

**Child's activity at time of incident:**

Sleeping

Working

Driving / Vehicle occupant

Playing

Eating

Unknown

Other

**Did child have supervision at time of incident leading to death?** No - Not needed given developmental age or circumstances

**Total number of deaths at incident event:**

**Children ages 0-18:** 1

**Adults:** 0

### Household Composition at time of Fatality

Household	Relationship	Role	Gender	Age
Deceased Child's Household	Deceased Child	Alleged Victim	Male	15 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Father	Alleged Perpetrator	Male	42 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Sibling	Alleged Victim	Female	17 Year(s)



Deceased Child's Household	Sibling	Alleged Victim	Female	9 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Stepmother	Alleged Perpetrator	Female	43 Year(s)
Other Household 1	Mother	No Role	Female	38 Year(s)

### LDSS Response

On 5/1/19, the BM reported that in December of 2017, the SC became severely depressed and committed suicide due to the SM's abusive behavior to the children. She stated the older SS was being physically and sexually abused by the BF. The SS had suicidal ideations in the past and the BF did not take her to see a clinician.

ACS visited the BF. There were no concerns for the two SS in the home. The older SS denied the reported concerns and stated she no longer had contact with the SM. She also denied any suicidal ideations. The BF stated the reported concerns were investigated six months prior and ACS referred the family to bereavement counseling services. All family members were receiving services to deal with the loss of the SC.

On 5/2/19, the family's service provider reported the family was compliant with services. Also, the BF joined a religious group for additional support.

Also on 5/2/19, the MGM denied concerns of current abuse to the children but reported physical abuse by the SM in the past.

Later that same day, the SM, the younger SS, and the adult half sibling denied physical discipline in the home. The SM stated she took the children's privileges away as a punishment. She stated she was enrolled in services and the younger SS would start therapy later in the month. The SM stated she and the BF agreed to the joint custody of the younger SS.

On 5/3/19, the older SS' school reported academic and behavioral concerns for the SS. There were no concerns for the younger SS' behavior. She received school based services due to her learning disabilities.

On 5/3/19 and 5/21/19, ACS deemed the older SS safe in the BF's home. The SS stated she was attending therapy. ACS provided the SS with resources she could utilize in case she had any suicidal ideations.

On 5/24/19, the MA informed ACS that the older SS moved into the MGM's home on 5/22/19.

On 5/28/19, ACS received additional information stating the BM believed the SC was alive. There were new concerns that the BF was sexually abusing the older SS.

On 6/3/19, the BF reported he did not allow the older SS to go on a school trip because she refused to engage in therapy, attend school and follow house rules. As a result, the SS left the home to live with her MGM. The younger SS stated her sister left the home by herself because she did not like to follow rules. There were no concerns for the younger SS at the time.

On 6/7/19, ACS visited the MGM's home. The older SS denied physical or sexual abuse. The MGM reported the SS had been attending school and seeing her therapist.

On 6/7/19, the SCR registered a subsequent report with the same concerns that have been previously reported and investigated. The investigation of the report by ACS remained active.

On 6/17/19 and 6/27/19, ACS assessed and deemed the younger SS safe in her parents' homes. The SM stated the SS was



awaiting an appointment with a therapist.

On 7/8/19, ACS held a child safety conference (CSC) on behalf of the family. The CSC recommended judicial intervention for the family.

On 7/9/19, ACS filed an Article 10 Neglect Petition in Kings County Family Court and requested an OOP on behalf of the older SS. The BF and the SM were the respondents in the petition. The court granted ACS' petition. The older SS was placed in the kinship care of the MGM under the auspices of Good Shepherd Services. The younger SS was released to her mother (SM) with COS.

On 7/10/19 and 7/31/19, ACS assessed the younger SS in her parents' homes. There were no concerns for the SS at the time of the home visits. The BF reported concerns that the older SS was not being properly supervised at the MGM's home. The child stayed out late at nights and was not attending summer school.

### Official Manner and Cause of Death

**Official Manner:** Suicide

**Primary Cause of Death:** From an injury - external cause

**Person Declaring Official Manner and Cause of Death:** Medical Examiner

### Multidisciplinary Investigation/Review

**Was the fatality investigation conducted by a Multidisciplinary Team (MDT)?**Yes

**Was the fatality reviewed by an OCFS approved Child Fatality Review Team?**No

**Comments:** There is no OCFS approved Child Fatality Review Team in the New York City region.

### SCR Fatality Report Summary

Alleged Victim(s)	Alleged Perpetrator(s)	Allegation(s)	Allegation Outcome
049965 - Deceased Child, Male, 15 Yrs	051237 - Stepmother, Female, 43 Year(s)	Inadequate Guardianship	Pending
049965 - Deceased Child, Male, 15 Yrs	051236 - Father, Male, 42 Year(s)	Inadequate Guardianship	Pending
049965 - Deceased Child, Male, 15 Yrs	051237 - Stepmother, Female, 43 Year(s)	DOA / Fatality	Pending
049965 - Deceased Child, Male, 15 Yrs	051236 - Father, Male, 42 Year(s)	Emotional Neglect	Pending
049965 - Deceased Child, Male, 15 Yrs	051236 - Father, Male, 42 Year(s)	DOA / Fatality	Pending
049965 - Deceased Child, Male, 15 Yrs	051237 - Stepmother, Female, 43 Year(s)	Emotional Neglect	Pending
051238 - Sibling, Female, 17 Year(s)	051236 - Father, Male, 42 Year(s)	Inadequate Guardianship	Pending
051238 - Sibling, Female, 17 Year(s)	051237 - Stepmother, Female, 43 Year(s)	Inadequate Guardianship	Pending
051238 - Sibling, Female, 17 Year(s)	051236 - Father, Male, 42 Year(s)	Emotional Neglect	Pending



# Child Fatality Report

051238 - Sibling, Female, 17 Year(s)	051237 - Stepmother, Female, 43 Year(s)	Emotional Neglect	Pending
051239 - Sibling, Female, 9 Year(s)	051236 - Father, Male, 42 Year(s)	Inadequate Guardianship	Pending
051239 - Sibling, Female, 9 Year(s)	051237 - Stepmother, Female, 43 Year(s)	Inadequate Guardianship	Pending

### CPS Fatality Casework/Investigative Activities

	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
All children observed?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
When appropriate, children were interviewed?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alleged subject(s) interviewed face-to-face?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
All 'other persons named' interviewed face-to-face?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contact with source?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
All appropriate Collaterals contacted?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Was a death-scene investigation performed?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Was there discussion with all parties (youth, other household members, and staff) who were present that day (if nonverbal, observation and comments in case notes)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coordination of investigation with law enforcement?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Was there timely entry of progress notes and other required documentation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Fatality Safety Assessment Activities

	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
Were there any surviving siblings or other children in the household?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Was there an adequate assessment of impending or immediate danger to surviving siblings/other children in the household named in the report:				
Within 24 hours?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
At 7 days?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
At 30 days?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Was there an approved Initial Safety Assessment for all surviving siblings/ other children in the household within 24 hours?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there any safety issues that need to be referred back to the local district?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



# Child Fatality Report

When safety factors were present that placed the surviving siblings/other children in the household in impending or immediate danger of serious harm, were the safety interventions, including parent/caretaker actions adequate?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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### Fatality Risk Assessment / Risk Assessment Profile

	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
Was the risk assessment/RAP adequate in this case?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
During the course of the investigation, was sufficient information gathered to assess risk to all surviving siblings/other children in the household?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Was there an adequate assessment of the family's need for services?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did the protective factors in this case require the LDSS to file a petition in Family Court at any time during or after the investigation?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Were appropriate/needed services offered in this case	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Placement Activities in Response to the Fatality Investigation

	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
Did the safety factors in the case show the need for the surviving siblings/other children in the household be removed or placed in foster care at any time during this fatality investigation?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Were there surviving children in the household that were removed either as a result of this fatality report / investigation or for reasons unrelated to this fatality?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, court ordered?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Explain as necessary:**  
 On 7/9/19, Kings County Family Court remanded the seventeen-year-old SS. She was placed in the kinship care of the MGM under the auspices of Good Shepherd Services. The younger SS was released to her bio-mother (stepmother) with COS.

### Legal Activity Related to the Fatality

Was there legal activity as a result of the fatality investigation?

Family Court                       Criminal Court                       Order of Protection

<b>Family Court Petition Type:</b> FCA Article 10 - CPS		
<b>Date Filed:</b>	<b>Fact Finding Description:</b>	<b>Disposition Description:</b>
07/09/2019	There was not a fact finding	There was not a disposition
<b>Respondent:</b>	051237 Stepmother Female 43 Year(s)	



**Comments:** On 7/9/19, ACS filed an Article 10 Neglect Petition in Kings County Family Court and requested an OOP on behalf of the older SS. The BF and the SM were the respondents in the petition. The court remanded the seventeen-year-old SS. She was placed in the kinship care of the MGM under the auspices of Good Shepherd Services. The younger SS was released to her bio-mother (stepmother) with COS.

**Have any Orders of Protection been issued?** No

**Services Provided to the Family in Response to the Fatality**

Services	Provided After Death	Offered, but Refused	Offered, Unknown if Used	Not Offered	Needed but Unavailable	N/A	CDR Lead to Referral
Bereavement counseling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic support	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Funeral arrangements	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Housing assistance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mental health services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foster care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Legal services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Homemaking Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parenting Skills	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Domestic Violence Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Early Intervention	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alcohol/Substance abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child Care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Intensive case management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family or others as safety resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Were services provided to siblings or other children in the household to address any immediate needs and support their well-being in response to the fatality?** Yes

**Explain:**

The two SS received bereavement counseling services. The younger SS also received school based services.

**Were services provided to parent(s) and other care givers to address any immediate needs related to the fatality?** Yes

**Explain:**

The BF and the SM received family, and bereavement counseling services.

## History Prior to the Fatality

### Child Information

**Did the child have a history of alleged child abuse/maltreatment?** Yes

**Was the child ever placed outside of the home prior to the death?** No

**Were there any siblings ever placed outside of the home prior to this child's death?** No

**Was the child acutely ill during the two weeks before death?** No

## CPS - Investigative History Three Years Prior to the Fatality

Date of SCR Report	Alleged Victim(s)	Alleged Perpetrator(s)	Allegation(s)	Allegation Outcome	Compliance Issue(s)
12/28/2017	Deceased Child, Male, 16 Years	Stepmother, Female, 43 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated	No
	Sibling, Female, 17 Years	Stepmother, Female, 43 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated	
	Deceased Child, Male, 16 Years	Father, Male, 42 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated	
	Sibling, Female, 17 Years	Father, Male, 42 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated	

**Report Summary:**

On 12/28/17, the SCR registered a report that alleged the SM punched the fifteen and sixteen-year-old children on their faces during the summer of 2017 and this had been ongoing. The BF also punched the children all over their body. The children were terrified of their parents. It was unknown if the children had suffered any injury or bruises. There was a concern for the care of the children.

**Report Determination:** Unfounded

**Date of Determination:** 02/27/2018

**Basis for Determination:**

On 12/27/17, the fifteen-year-old SC committed suicide a day before the SCR registered the report. The BF found the SC unresponsive in the basement of the family's home. The BF called 911 and then gave the SC CPR. LE arrived at the home, continued CPR and transported the SC to the hospital where he was pronounced dead at 9:24 PM. At the time of his death, the SC was diagnosed with a clinical health condition and was under the care of a therapist. He was taking prescribed medication. The SM denied the allegations. LE reported that the SC's autopsy report indicated there were no signs of criminality and no marks or bruises on the SC other than the marks from him hanging himself.

**OCFS Review Results:**

ACS initiated the investigation and contacted the family within the required 24-48 timeframe. During the investigation, ACS made home visits and collateral contacts pertinent to the investigation. Based on the information obtained, ACS' decision to unsubstantiate the allegation of IG against the SM was appropriate.

**Are there Required Actions related to the compliance issue(s)?**  Yes  No

## CPS - Investigative History More Than Three Years Prior to the Fatality



The SCR registered 2 reports dated 10/15/03, and 6/14/12 regarding the family. The 10/15/03 report alleged the 2 and 1-year-old children lost weight and were diagnosed as failure to thrive. The children were anemic and had developmental delays.

On 12/10/03, ACS substantiated the allegations LMC and M/FTTH against the parents. The 2 children weighed below the age appropriate level for their ages. Their immunizations and physicals were not current. The parents provided plausible explanation as to why the children’s medicals were not up to date. ACS referred the family to FPP.

On 7/20/04, ACS filed an Article 10 Neglect Petition in Family Court against the BM for non-compliant with her clinical health treatment. The court released the children to the non-respondent BF with COS. The court also issued a temporary OOP against the BM.

The 6/14/12 report alleged the BM was ill with a clinical health condition and had a history of being non-compliant with treatment plans. The BM’s clinical health illness led her to vaginally examine her 11-year old child to determine if the child was sexually active.

On 8/10/12, ACS unsubstantiated the allegation IG against the BM. The BM denied examining the SC inappropriately. The SC also denied being touched inappropriately or that the BM made her feel uncomfortable. The BM’s therapist reported the BM was engaged in services. ACS closed the case with no services required.

### Known CPS History Outside of NYS

The family did not have any known CPS history outside of New York State.

### Preventive Services History

Following the death of the SC in December 2017, the family received PPRS services. The BF and the older SS received services at Community Counseling and Mediation program. The SM and her daughter also engaged in services with Heart Share St. Vincent services. The family continued to be engaged in family, and grief counseling.

### Legal History Within Three Years Prior to the Fatality

**Was there any legal activity within three years prior to the fatality investigation?** There was no legal activity

### Recommended Action(s)

**Are there any recommended actions for local or state administrative or policy changes?**  Yes  No

**Are there any recommended prevention activities resulting from the review?**  Yes  No