



**Report Identification Number: NY-23-062**

**Prepared by: New York State Office of Children & Family Services**

**Issue Date: Sep 13, 2023**

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 had an open investigation or a CPS monitored services 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	DA-District Attorney	
<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	SXTF-Sex Trafficking
<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:** 19 year(s)

**Jurisdiction:** New York  
**Gender:** Male

**Date of Death:** 05/20/2023  
**Initial Date OCFS Notified:** 05/21/2023

## Presenting Information

On 5/21/23, the death of the 19-year-old subject child was reported to OCFS by the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) through the required 7065 Agency Reporting Form. The child was discovered deceased with a gunshot wound by law enforcement on 5/20/23.

## Executive Summary

On 5/20/23, ACS was notified of the death of the 19-year-old subject child. The child was adjudicated a juvenile delinquent in family court on 7/29/22, and he was placed in the care and custody of ACS. The child had been placed at a non-secure residence for 12 months. The child completed services at his residential facility and transitioned into a shelter with aftercare services on 2/17/23, where he resided at his time of death.

While residing at the shelter, the child's goal was to work toward living independently. The child had support through community agencies and oversight and monitoring by ACS. Shortly after moving, the child began absconding from the shelter and not returning for days. At the time of his death, the child had been gone from the shelter since 3/28/23. ACS documented efforts to locate the child through contact with his family, phone calls and texts to the child, and searches of his neighborhood. In addition, the movement control and communications unit was notified and a warrant was issued.

On 5/20/23, ACS learned that the child was discovered by law enforcement with a gunshot wound to the head in an abandoned apartment on 5/20/23 at approximately 4:30 PM. Law enforcement reported they received a 911 call which led them to discover the child. The child was transported to the hospital where he was pronounced deceased. OCFS requested the autopsy report from the Medical Examiner and had not yet received it at the time of this writing.

Following the fatality, ACS offered the legal guardian funeral assistance and grief counseling services. The legal guardian declined services offered by ACS; however, was in receipt of assistance through a community services agency. The subject child was the only child listed on the foster care case; therefore, the family services stage was closed.

## Findings Related to the CPS Investigation of the Fatality

### Safety Assessment:

- Was sufficient information gathered to make the decision recorded on the:
  - Safety assessment due at the time of determination? N/A

### Determination:

- Was sufficient information gathered to make determination(s) for all allegations as well as any others identified in the course of the investigation? N/A
- Was the determination made by the district to unfound or indicate N/A



appropriate?

**Explain:**

There was no SCR report regarding the death; therefore, there were no allegations regarding the fatality and the completion of safety assessment tools was not required.

**Was the decision to close the case appropriate?** Yes

**Was casework activity commensurate with appropriate and relevant statutory or regulatory requirements?** Yes

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

**Explain:**

ACS investigated the circumstances surrounding the death and determined an SCR report was not necessary as there was no suspicion of abuse or neglect. The decision to close the family services stage was appropriate, as there were no other children listed on the foster care case.

### Required Actions Related to the Fatality

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

### Fatality-Related Information and Investigative Activities

#### Incident Information

**Date of Death:** 05/20/2023

**Time of Death:** Unknown

**Time of fatal incident, if different than time of death:** Unknown

**County where fatality incident occurred:** Bronx

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

**Time of Call:** Unknown

**Did EMS respond to the scene?** Unknown

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

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

- Sleeping
- Working
- Driving / Vehicle occupant
- Playing
- Eating
- Unknown
- Other

**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
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Deceased Child's Household	Deceased Child	No Role	Male	19 Year(s)
Other Household 1	Other Adult - Legal Guardian	No Role	Female	45 Year(s)

### LDSS Response

On 5/21/23, ACS submitted a completed 7065 Reporting Form to OCFS regarding the death of the subject child, which occurred on 5/20/23. At the time of the subject child's death, the child was in the care and custody of ACS and there was an open foster care case. Based on the information gathered from law enforcement, ACS determined the child's death was the result of a gunshot wound and not due to abuse or maltreatment by a caretaker.

Prior to the child's placement with ACS, he resided with his legal guardian. The child had a history of engaging in delinquent behaviors and absconding from his home. The child was adjudicated a delinquent and placed for one year with ACS on 7/29/22. The child was in a non-secure placement where he participated in educational services, substance abuse treatment, mental health counseling, and vocational workshops. ACS and the contracted agency documented frequent contact with the child. The legal guardian did not wish to have the child returned to her care due to his behaviors. The child began working toward independent living and was transitioned to a shelter with aftercare services in place on 2/17/23.

Shortly after his placement at the shelter, the child began staying out past curfew, stealing, and not returning to the shelter for days at a time. On 3/14/23, an elevated-risk conference was held to discuss the concerns with the child's behaviors. A plan was made to help the child better understand the rules of the shelter and to provide necessities for the child to assist him with transportation and communication with family and peers. The child continued to leave without authorization and would return for brief periods of time. The child left the shelter on 3/28/23 and was absent without leave (AWOL) at the time of his death. ACS contacted the legal guardian in efforts to locate the child and she was unaware of his whereabouts. The legal guardian reported that law enforcement came to her home looking for the child in relation to a crime he was possibly involved with.

On 5/20/23, ACS became aware of the death and notified the New York City Regional Office via the 7065 Agency Reporting Form. The legal guardian was made aware and reported she was in communication with law enforcement regarding their investigation. The legal guardian was offered fatality related services, which she declined, as she was involved with a crime victims agency for ongoing support. A Plan Amendment FASP was completed in relation to the death and the services case was closed on 8/23/23.

### Official Manner and Cause of Death

**Official Manner:** Unknown

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

**Person Declaring Official Manner and Cause of Death:** Unknown

### Multidisciplinary Investigation/Review

**Was the fatality referred to an OCFS approved Child Fatality Review Team?**No

**Comments:** ACS does not have an OCFS approved Child Fatality Review Team.

### CPS Fatality Casework/Investigative Activities



# Child Fatality Report

	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
All children observed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
When appropriate, children were interviewed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contact with source?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coordination of investigation with law enforcement?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Was there timely entry of progress notes and other required documentation?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Legal Activity Related to the Fatality

Was there legal activity as a result of the fatality investigation? There was no legal activity.

### 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foster care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



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<b>Domestic Violence Services</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Early Intervention</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Alcohol/Substance abuse</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Child Care</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Intensive case management</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Family or others as safety resources</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Other</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## History Prior to the Fatality

### Child Information

Did the child have a history of alleged child abuse/maltreatment? Yes  
 Was the child acutely ill during the two weeks before death? No

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

There is no CPS investigative history in NYS within three years prior to the fatality.

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

In 2016, the child's legal guardian had an unfounded CPS investigation regarding the child which contained allegations of Inadequate Food/Clothing/Shelter, Inadequate Guardianship, and Educational Neglect.

### Known CPS History Outside of NYS

There was no known CPS history outside of NYS.

## Services Open at the Time of the Fatality

Was the deceased child(ren) involved in an open preventive services case at the time of the fatality? Yes

Date the preventive services case was opened: 07/29/2022

## Evaluative Review of Services that were Open at the Time of the Fatality

	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
<b>Did the service provider(s) comply with the timeliness and content requirements for progress notes?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Did the services provided meet the service needs as outlined in the case record?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Did all service providers comply with mandated reporter requirements?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Was there information in the case record that indicated the existence of</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



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behaviors or conditions that placed the children in the case in danger or increased their risk of harm?				
If yes, was the response appropriate to the circumstances?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Casework Contacts

	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
Did the service provider comply with case work contacts, including face-to-face contact as required by regulations pertaining to the program choice?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Were face-to-face contacts with the child in the child's placement location made with the required frequency?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Services Provided

	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Were services provided to parents as necessary to achieve safety, permanency, and well-being?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Family Assessment and Service Plan (FASP)

	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
Was the most recent FASP approved on time?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Was there a current Risk Assessment Profile/Risk Assessment in the most recent FASP?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Provider

	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
Were Services provided by a provider other than the Local Department of Social Services?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Additional information, if necessary:**  
 In addition to ACS, the child was in receipt of services through community agencies and residential facility staff.

### Foster Care at the Time of the Fatality





The deceased child(ren) were in foster care at the time of the fatality? Yes

Date deceased child(ren) was placed in care: 07/29/2022

Date of placement with most recent caregiver? 02/17/2023

How did the child(ren) enter placement? Court Order

### Review of Foster Care When Child was in Foster Care at the time of the Fatality

	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
Does the case record document that sufficient steps were taken to safeguard this child's safety while in this placement?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did the placement comply with the appropriateness of placement standards?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Was the most recent placement stable?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did the agency comply with sibling placement standards?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Was the child AWOL at the time of death?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If yes, did the agency comply with Absent without Consent regulations?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Visitation

	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
Was the visitation plan appropriate for the child?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Was visitation facilitated in accordance with the regulations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Was there supervision of visits as required?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Casework Contacts

	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
Were face-to-face contacts with the child in the child's placement location made with the required frequency?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Were face-to-face contacts with the parent/relative/discharge resource made with required frequency?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Were face-to-face contacts with the parent/relative/discharge resource in the parent/relative/discharge resource's home made with required frequency?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Were all of the casework contact requirements for contacts with the caretakers made, including requirements for contact at the child's placement location?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Provider Oversight/Training





**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