



Report Identification Number: RO-16-003

Prepared by: Rochester Regional Office

Issue Date: 7/22/2016

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

| Relationships | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| 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 |
| Contacts | | |
| 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 |
| CPR-Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation | | |
| Allegations | | |
| 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-Others | |
| Miscellaneous | | |
| 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 | | |

Case Information



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Report Type: Child Deceased
Age: 2 month(s)

Jurisdiction: Monroe
Gender: Female

Date of Death: 02/04/2016
Initial Date OCFS Notified: 02/05/2016

Presenting Information

On 1/3/16, the BM was sleeping with the SC in bed with her. The BM rolled over on the infant causing the SC to be smothered. The BM awoke to find the SC unresponsive. The SC was revived and hospitalized. The SC has been on life support. On 2/4/16 at 9:39 pm SC was taken off life support and died of respiratory complications caused by the incident on 1/3/16. An autopsy will be completed.

There is no police involvement or involvement from the district attorney's office at this time. There has been no arrest.

Executive Summary

On 2/5/16 the SCR received a report of a fatality concerning the death of a female child that occurred on 2/4/16, following her removal from life support. On 1/3/16 the SC was hospitalized after she was discovered not breathing while co-sleeping with her BM. The cause and manner of death are pending.

On 2/5/16 Monroe County Department of Human Services (MCDHS) conducted a joint investigation with law enforcement. The BM reports that the SC had recently been ill with a respiratory condition and was seen by her doctor on 12/30/16. The BM was concerned that the SC would vomit and placed the SC in her bed with her. The BM was awakened by the MU who had come into the room to check the SC and found her not breathing. The SC was provided CPR by her MGM until the ambulance arrived. The SC was revived on route to the hospital and placed on life support on arrival. A safety assessment was completed on 2/5/16, on the home and MCDHS determined that the MU was safe in the care of his mother and sister.

MCDHS completed a referral for bereavement services for the MU at the request of his mother. The MU continues to receive services at the time of this report.

MCDHS completed collateral contacts with law enforcement, the SC's pediatrician, MU's school, medical examiner, ambulance service and the hospital providing service. MCDHS conducted interviews with all household members and the fathers of the SC and MU. Visits to the home and school of the MU revealed no safety concerns. The family had no CPS history.

Supervisory reviews were documented throughout the course of the investigation and it was noted that there is evidence of aggravating factors regarding an unsafe sleep environment. The positioning of the infant and the proximity to pillows and soft bedding may be factors.

The manner and cause of death are pending the final autopsy results.

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? Yes
- 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

Explain:

N/A

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

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:

see summary

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: 02/04/2016

Time of Death: 09:39 PM

Date of fatal incident, if different than date of death: 01/03/2016

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

County where fatality incident occurred: MONROE

Was 911 or local emergency number called? Yes

Time of Call: 23:14 PM

Did EMS to 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:



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

Did child have supervision at time of incident leading to death? Yes

Is the caretaker listed in the Household Composition? Yes - Caregiver

1

At time of incident supervisor was:

- Drug Impaired
- Absent
- Alcohol Impaired
- Asleep
- Distracted
- Impaired by illness
- Impaired by disability
- Other:

Total number of deaths at incident event:

Children ages 0-18: 1

Household Composition at time of Fatality

| Household | Relationship | Role | Gender | Age |
|----------------------------|----------------|---------------------|--------|------------|
| Deceased Child's Household | Aunt/Uncle | No Role | Male | 11 Year(s) |
| Deceased Child's Household | Aunt/Uncle | No Role | Male | 18 Year(s) |
| Deceased Child's Household | Deceased Child | Alleged Victim | Female | 2 Month(s) |
| Deceased Child's Household | Grandparent | No Role | Female | 40 Year(s) |
| Deceased Child's Household | Mother | Alleged Perpetrator | Female | 21 Year(s) |

LDSS Response

On 2/5/16 the SCR received a report of a child fatality. On 1/3/16 BM was sleeping with SC in bed with her. The BM awoke to find the SC unresponsive. The SC was revived on route to the hospital. On 2/4/17 at approximately 9:30pm the SC was removed from life support and died of respiratory complications caused by the incident on 1/3/16.

Monroe County Department of Human Services (MCDHS) responded to the home on 2/5/16 to assess the safety of any surviving siblings. The SC had no surviving siblings, however, an 11 yr. old MU did reside in the home. The MU was appropriately assessed on during the visit. LDSS conducted interviews face to face interviews on 2/8/16 with all household members noting no safety concerns. BM, MGM, and a second MU along with the BF were interviewed separately. The BF is not a member of the household and returned only for the funeral. The 11 yr. old MU was deemed safe in care of his mother and sister.

MCDHS collaborated with LE, school officials on behalf of the MU; pediatrician, hospital and other agencies to ensure the safety of the MU. MU continues to receive bereavement support services.

On 2/5/16 MCDHS made a collateral contact with the hospital attending physician and confirmed that the SC had "RSV bronchiolitis and she was found to have severe hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy seen on both her CT of her head as well



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on the MRI." Although the autopsy is not complete MCDHS confirmed the neurological exam.

All casework and activities by MCDHS were appropriate and consistent with case circumstances. The fatality investigation remains undetermined at the time of this report.

Official Manner and Cause of Death

Official Manner: Pending

Primary Cause of Death: Unknown

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? Yes

SCR Fatality Report Summary

| Alleged Victim(s) | Alleged Perpetrator(s) | Allegation(s) | Allegation Outcome |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 029030 - Deceased Child, Female, 2 Month(s) | 028705 - Mother, Female, 21 Year(s) | Inadequate Guardianship | Pending |
| 029030 - Deceased Child, Female, 2 Month(s) | 028705 - Mother, Female, 21 Year(s) | DOA / Fatality | 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input 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, | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



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|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| observation and comments in case notes)? | | | | |
| 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Was there an adequate safety 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input 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"/> |

| | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 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 type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

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 type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" 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"/> |



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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 type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Were there surviving siblings/other children in the household removed as a result of this fatality report/investigation? | <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 | Needed but not Offered | Needed but Unavailable | N/A | CDR Lead to Referral |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Bereavement counseling | <input checked="" 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 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"/> |
| 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <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:

Bereavement services and counseling were offered and the family engaged.

History Prior to the Fatality

Child Information

- Did the child have a history of alleged child abuse/maltreatment? No
- Was there an open CPS case with this child at the time of death? 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

Infants Under One Year Old

During pregnancy, mother:

- Had medical complications / infections
- Misused over-the-counter or prescription drugs
- Experienced domestic violence
- Was not noted in the case record to have any of the issues listed
- Had heavy alcohol use
- Smoked tobacco
- Used illicit drugs

Infant was born:

- Drug exposed
- With neither of the issues listed noted in case record
- With fetal alcohol effects or syndrome

CPS - Investigative History Three Years Prior to the Fatality

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

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

There is no CPS investigative history more than three years prior to the fatality.



Services Open at the Time of the Fatality

Required Action(s)

Are there Required Actions related to compliance issues for provisions of CPS or Preventive services ?

Yes No

Preventive Services History

There is no record of Preventive Services History provided to the deceased child, the deceased child’s siblings, and/or the other children residing in the deceased child’s household at the time of the fatality.

Required Action(s)

Are there Required Actions related to the compliance issues for provision of Foster Care Services?

Yes No

Foster Care Placement History

There is no record of foster care placement history provided to the deceased child, the deceased child’s siblings, and/or the other children residing in the deceased child’s household at the time of the fatality.

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