



## Report Identification Number: SY-21-005

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

**Issue Date: Jul 15, 2021**

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
FM-Foster Mother	SS-Surviving Sibling	PS-Parent Sub
CH/CHN-Child/Children	OA-Other Adult	
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
CPS-Child Protective Services		
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-Other	
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	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	ASTO-Allowing Sex Abuse to Occur	



## Case Information

**Report Type:** Child Deceased  
**Age:** 13 year(s)

**Jurisdiction:** St. Lawrence  
**Gender:** Female

**Date of Death:** 01/19/2021  
**Initial Date OCFS Notified:** 01/20/2021

## Presenting Information

An SCR report received on 1/26/21 alleged that on 1/15/21, around 11:30 PM, the father and 13-year-old subject child went snowmobiling together on one snowmobile. It was unknown if the father or child were operating the snowmobile. The father and child snowmobiled about 10 miles from their home to a lake and rode around for an unknown amount of time. The lake was a well known dangerous area where several individuals have died from being on the lake when it was not frozen through. The father and child attempted to gain speed to go over the area of water that was not completely frozen over. During this time, the father, child and snowmobile went through the ice and underwater. As a result, at an unknown time later, the child died. The child's body was found in the lake on 1/19/21. The father's body and snowmobile had not been found, but the father was presumed to have died during the incident.

## Executive Summary

On 1/26/21, the St. Lawrence County Department of Social Services (SLCDSS) received an SCR report regarding the death of the 13-year-old female subject child. SLCDSS had an open CPS investigation at the time, which was received on 12/3/20, with concerns that the mother, father, and paternal grandparents were abusing drugs and they were unable to adequately care for the children. The subject child resided with her mother, father, paternal grandparents, 17-year-old sibling and 16-year-old sibling.

Through a joint investigation with law enforcement, SLCDSS learned that on 1/15/21, around 11:30 PM, the father and subject child went snowmobiling. When the father and child did not return home, the mother and other family members began searching for them. Around 8:00 PM on 1/17/21, law enforcement was contacted, and a missing person's report was made. Following a search, law enforcement located snowmobile tracks leading out onto a lake about 10 miles away from the family's home and there was a hole in the ice where the snowmobile tracks ended. The child's body was located in the lake on 1/19/21 and the coroner pronounced her deceased at 3:50 PM. The father's body was recovered from the lake on 3/26/21.

Autopsies were performed and the cause of death for both the father and the child was cold water asphyxiation and the manner of death was accident. The child's autopsy report stated that there were no external injuries, and no acute internal injuries or disease found. Law enforcement determined it was an accident and they closed their investigation with no charges filed.

The father had a history of substance abuse, however the family denied that he used drugs around the children. The mother, grandparents and an adult friend who saw the father on 1/15/21 denied that the father was under the influence of drugs when he went snowmobiling that night. SLCDSS assessed the home to be safe and there were no concerns for the siblings in the mother's care. Although the siblings' safety was assessed within the required timeframe, the 7-Day Safety Assessment was not completed in Connections and the 30-Day Safety Assessment and 30-Day Fatality Report were not documented and approved timely. The mother was provided with written notice of the report, however it was not provided within 7 days of receipt of the SCR report, and the paternal grandparents were not provided with Notice of Existence of the report.

SLCDSS unsubstantiated the allegations of Inadequate Guardianship and DOA/Fatality against the father based on the findings that the incident appeared to be accidental. The family was provided with information on bereavement services and they declined. The family was not in need of funeral assistance.



### PIP Requirement

SLCDSS will submit a PIP to the Syracuse Regional Office within 30 days of receipt of this report. The PIP will identify action(s) SLCDSS has taken, or will take, to address the cited issue(s). For issues where a PIP is currently implemented, SLCDSS will review the plan and revise as needed to address ongoing concerns.

## 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? Yes, sufficient information was gathered to determine all allegations.
- Was the determination made by the district to unfound or indicate appropriate? Yes

### Explain:

The case was unfounded and closed.

Was the decision to close the case appropriate? Yes

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:

SLCDSS investigated the circumstances surrounding the child's death and they assessed the safety of the siblings throughout the investigation. The 7-Day Safety Assessment was not completed and the 30-Day Safety Assessment and 30-Day Fatality report were completed untimely. Notice of Existence was not provided to the paternal grandparents and Notice of Existence was provided to the mother untimely.

## Required Actions Related to the Fatality

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

<b>Issue:</b>	Timely/Adequate Seven Day Assessment
<b>Summary:</b>	The 7-Day Safety Assessment was not completed in Connections.



<b>Legal Reference:</b>	SSL 424(3);18 NYCRR432.2(b)(3)(ii)(c)
<b>Action:</b>	SLCDSS will document and approve all Safety Assessments within the required timeframe
<b>Issue:</b>	Timely/Adequate 30-Day Safety Assessment
<b>Summary:</b>	The 30-day Safety Assessment was documented and approved late on 4/29/21.
<b>Legal Reference:</b>	CPS Program Manual, Chapter 6, K-2
<b>Action:</b>	The results of each Safety Assessment must be documented in the case record in the form and manner required by OCFS. In this instance, the required manner is by the completion of a 7-day Safety Assessment in Connections.
<b>Issue:</b>	The 30-Day Fatality Report is required to be completed in CONNECTIONS within 30 Days of receipt of a report alleging the death of a child as a result of abuse or maltreatment.
<b>Summary:</b>	The 30-Day Fatality Report was not documented and approved in Connections within 30 days of receipt of the SCR report. The 30-Day Fatality Report was documented on 4/29/21 and approved on 4/30/21.
<b>Legal Reference:</b>	CPS Program Manual, Chapter 6, K-2
<b>Action:</b>	The 30-day Fatality Report must be documented in a template in Connections within 30 days of the receipt of a report alleging the death of a child because of abuse or maltreatment.
<b>Issue:</b>	Failure to provide notice of report
<b>Summary:</b>	The paternal grandparents resided in the home and they were not provided with Notice of Existence of the report. The mother was provided with written notice of the report untimely on 4/29/21.
<b>Legal Reference:</b>	18 NYCRR 432.2(b)(3)(ii)(f)
<b>Action:</b>	SLCDSS will mail or deliver notification letters to subject(s), parent(s), and any other adult(s) named in the report within the first seven days following the receipt of the report. When other persons are identified as residing in the household and added to the case, they will be notified in writing as well.

## Fatality-Related Information and Investigative Activities

### Incident Information

**Date of Death:** 01/19/2021

**Time of Death:** 03:50 PM

**Date of fatal incident, if different than date of death:**

01/15/2021

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

Unknown

**County where fatality incident occurred:**

St. Lawrence

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

No

**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?** Yes

**At time of incident was supervisor impaired?** Not impaired.

**At time of incident supervisor was:**

Distracted

Absent

Asleep

Other: N/A

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

**Children ages 0-18:** 1

**Adults:** 1

### Household Composition at time of Fatality

Household	Relationship	Role	Gender	Age
Deceased Child's Household	Deceased Child	Alleged Victim	Female	13 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Father	Alleged Perpetrator	Male	37 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Grandparent	No Role	Male	60 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Grandparent	No Role	Female	56 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Mother	No Role	Female	38 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Sibling	No Role	Male	17 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Sibling	No Role	Male	16 Year(s)

### LDSS Response

Upon notification of the child's death, SLCDSS reviewed SCR history and they spoke to the source of the report, law enforcement, the coroner's office, school staff and the pediatrician. They interviewed the mother, paternal grandparents and a friend who saw the father and child on the night of the incident. Several attempts were made to fully interview the siblings, but they would only report that they were doing okay and they declined bereavement services.

Through interviews with the mother and grandparents, it was learned that the father used drugs outside of the home and he never used drugs around the children. They said he was home all day on 1/15/21 and he did not appear to be under the influence. The father and subject child left the home between 9-10:00 PM to go to the father's friend's house to pick up the family's snowmobile and drive it to their house. The family got worried when the father had not contacted them to check in after several hours had gone by. The following morning the mother and paternal aunt went to the friend's home to speak with her and they spent the day searching for the father and child at different locations that the father was known to frequent. They then tried to locate the father by using an app, which showed the last location of the father's cell phone to be in the area of the lake. When they were still unable to locate the father and child on 1/17/21, they contacted law enforcement and filed a missing persons' report. They waited by the lake while law enforcement searched for the father and child. After law enforcement located their helmets, they dredged the lake for their bodies.

The friend reported that the father and child were at her home around 10:00 pm to pick up the snowmobile and drive it back to the family's home. She stated that the father did not appear to be under the influence and the child appeared to be fine at that time. She made sure the child was dressed properly for the ride with boots, snow pants and a helmet.

Law enforcement reported that they were familiar with the father and he was known to be a drug abuser. They received a



missing persons' report around 8:00 PM on 1/17/21 regarding the father and subject child. They searched for the snowmobile around the lake and they did not locate it on the known trails. They found snowmobile tracks on the lake that led up to a hole in the ice. When they dredged the lake, they found two snowmobile helmets that were identified by the family as belonging to the father and child. There were no footprints in the area to suggest that the father and child were walking around so they continued to dredge the lake and brought in dive teams to search for the father and child. The child's body was found on 1/19/21, and she was appropriately dressed for the weather and the activity of snowmobiling. The father's body was unable to be located right away and search efforts were postponed due to the cold weather.

**Official Manner and Cause of Death**

**Official Manner:** Accident

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

**Person Declaring Official Manner and Cause of Death:** Other physician

**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
057561 - Deceased Child, Female, 13 Yrs	057563 - Father, Male, 37 Year(s)	DOA / Fatality	Unsubstantiated
057561 - Deceased Child, Female, 13 Yrs	057563 - Father, Male, 37 Year(s)	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated

**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, 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"/>



<b>Was there timely entry of progress notes and other required documentation?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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### Fatality Safety Assessment Activities

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

<b>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?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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**Explain:**  
 Although the siblings' safety was assessed within the required timeframe, the 7-Day Safety Assessment was not completed in Connections and the 30-Day Safety Assessment was approved late on 4/29/21.

### Fatality Risk Assessment / Risk Assessment Profile

	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
<b>Was the risk assessment/RAP adequate in this case?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>During the course of the investigation, was sufficient information gathered to assess risk to all surviving siblings/other children in the household?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Was there an adequate assessment of the family's need for services?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>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?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Were appropriate/needed services offered in this case</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Explain:**  
 Risk was adequately assessed for the siblings and the family was referred for bereavement services.

### 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 children in the household that were removed either as a result of this fatality report / investigation or for reasons unrelated to this fatality?	<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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 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? No

**Explain:**

The siblings were offered bereavement services and they declined.

**Were services provided to parent(s) and other care givers to address any immediate needs related to the fatality?** No

**Explain:**

The mother and grandparents were offered bereavement services and they declined.

## History Prior to the Fatality

### Child Information

<b>Did the child have a history of alleged child abuse/maltreatment?</b>	Yes
<b>Was the child ever placed outside of the home prior to the death?</b>	No
<b>Were there any siblings ever placed outside of the home prior to this child's death?</b>	No
<b>Was the child acutely ill during the two weeks before death?</b>	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)
12/03/2020	Deceased Child, Female, 13 Years	Mother, Female, 37 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated	No
	Deceased Child, Female, 13 Years	Mother, Female, 37 Years	Parents Drug / Alcohol Misuse	Unsubstantiated	
	Sibling, Male, 17 Years	Mother, Female, 37 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated	
	Sibling, Male, 17 Years	Mother, Female, 37 Years	Parents Drug / Alcohol Misuse	Unsubstantiated	
	Deceased Child, Female, 13 Years	Grandparent, Male, 60 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated	
	Deceased Child, Female, 13 Years	Grandparent, Male, 60 Years	Parents Drug / Alcohol Misuse	Unsubstantiated	
	Sibling, Male, 17 Years	Grandparent, Male, 60 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated	
	Sibling, Male, 17 Years	Grandparent, Male, 60 Years	Parents Drug / Alcohol Misuse	Unsubstantiated	
	Deceased Child, Female, 13 Years	Father, Male, 37 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated	
	Deceased Child, Female, 13 Years	Father, Male, 37 Years	Parents Drug / Alcohol Misuse	Unsubstantiated	
Sibling, Male, 17 Years	Father, Male, 37 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated		



# Child Fatality Report

Sibling, Male, 17 Years	Father, Male, 37 Years	Parents Drug / Alcohol Misuse	Unsubstantiated
Deceased Child, Female, 13 Years	Grandparent, Female, 56 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated
Deceased Child, Female, 13 Years	Grandparent, Female, 56 Years	Parents Drug / Alcohol Misuse	Unsubstantiated
Sibling, Male, 17 Years	Grandparent, Female, 56 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated
Sibling, Male, 17 Years	Grandparent, Female, 56 Years	Parents Drug / Alcohol Misuse	Unsubstantiated

**Report Summary:**

An SCR report alleged that the parents and paternal grandparents abused drugs to the point of impairment. As a result, they were unable to provide the children with adequate care. The adults physically fought with each other in front of the children. The father manufactured drugs in his room and sold drugs out of the home in the presence of the children. The father drove around while under the influence in a reckless manner with the children in the car.

**Report Determination:** Unfounded

**Date of Determination:** 03/30/2021

**Basis for Determination:**

The father admitted to using drugs but he denied that he used or manufactured drugs in the home or around the children. The mother, grandparents and children confirmed this. The mother and grandparents denied that they used drugs or that there was any physical fighting amongst the adults. The father and subject child went missing during the investigation and it was discovered their snowmobile fell through the ice into the lake and they drowned. The incident appeared to be accidental and SLCDSS continued to investigate the incident in a subsequent SCR report.

**OCFS Review Results:**

SLCDSS conducted home visits and interviewed all household members. Notice of Existence was provided to all adults. Safety Assessments and the RAP were completed timely and accurately and relevant collaterals were contacted. SLCDSS investigated the circumstances surrounding the subject child's death and referred the family for mental health and bereavement services.

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

Date of SCR Report	Alleged Victim(s)	Alleged Perpetrator(s)	Allegation(s)	Allegation Outcome	Compliance Issue(s)
09/30/2020	Sibling, Male, 16 Years	Grandparent, Male, 60 Years	Inadequate Food / Clothing / Shelter	Unsubstantiated	No
	Sibling, Male, 16 Years	Grandparent, Male, 60 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated	
	Sibling, Male, 16 Years	Grandparent, Male, 60 Years	Lack of Supervision	Unsubstantiated	
	Deceased Child, Female, 12 Years	Grandparent, Male, 60 Years	Inadequate Food / Clothing / Shelter	Unsubstantiated	
	Deceased Child, Female, 12 Years	Grandparent, Male, 60 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated	
	Deceased Child, Female, 12 Years	Grandparent, Male, 60 Years	Lack of Supervision	Unsubstantiated	
	Sibling, Male, 16 Years	Father, Male, 37 Years	Inadequate Food / Clothing / Shelter	Unsubstantiated	



Sibling, Male, 16 Years	Father, Male, 37 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated
Sibling, Male, 16 Years	Father, Male, 37 Years	Lack of Supervision	Unsubstantiated
Deceased Child, Female, 12 Years	Father, Male, 37 Years	Inadequate Food / Clothing / Shelter	Unsubstantiated
Deceased Child, Female, 12 Years	Father, Male, 37 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated
Deceased Child, Female, 12 Years	Father, Male, 37 Years	Lack of Supervision	Unsubstantiated
Sibling, Male, 16 Years	Grandparent, Female, 56 Years	Inadequate Food / Clothing / Shelter	Unsubstantiated
Sibling, Male, 16 Years	Grandparent, Female, 56 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated
Sibling, Male, 16 Years	Grandparent, Female, 56 Years	Lack of Supervision	Unsubstantiated
Deceased Child, Female, 12 Years	Grandparent, Female, 56 Years	Inadequate Food / Clothing / Shelter	Unsubstantiated
Deceased Child, Female, 12 Years	Grandparent, Female, 56 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated
Deceased Child, Female, 12 Years	Grandparent, Female, 56 Years	Lack of Supervision	Unsubstantiated
Sibling, Male, 16 Years	Father, Male, 37 Years	Parents Drug / Alcohol Misuse	Unsubstantiated
Deceased Child, Female, 12 Years	Father, Male, 37 Years	Parents Drug / Alcohol Misuse	Unsubstantiated

**Report Summary:**

An SCR report alleged that the father abused drugs on a regular basis, to the point where he became high and threatened others. On one occasion, he tried to kill the grandfather with an axe. The father manufactured drugs in his bedroom and there were drugs and needles all over the upstairs. The oldest sibling and subject child ran throughout the town causing trouble and became violent because of the drugs being manufactured in the residence. The adults failed to provide adequate supervision to the children and they did what they want. The home was unsanitary with trash and debris all over making it difficult to walk through. There was a lack of food in the home.

**Report Determination:** Unfounded

**Date of Determination:** 12/22/2020

**Basis for Determination:**

The father admitted to using drugs but denied that he used drugs in the home or while caring for the children. The mother and grandparents reported that they were sober caretakers for the children. The children denied that the father used drugs around them or that they saw him under the influence. The family reported that the children were always supervised by an adult. The home was observed to be safe for the children and the family had plenty of food.

**OCFS Review Results:**

SLCDSS conducted home visits and interviewed all household members. Safety Assessments and the RAP were completed timely and accurately. Notice of Existence was provided to the adults and relevant collaterals were contacted. The father was referred for substance abuse services and he declined.

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

Date of SCR Report	Alleged Victim(s)	Alleged Perpetrator(s)	Allegation(s)	Allegation Outcome	Compliance Issue(s)
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01/22/2020	Sibling, Male, 16 Years	Mother, Female, 37 Years	Educational Neglect	Unsubstantiated	Yes
	Sibling, Male, 15 Years	Mother, Female, 37 Years	Educational Neglect	Unsubstantiated	
	Sibling, Male, 16 Years	Father, Male, 36 Years	Educational Neglect	Unsubstantiated	
	Sibling, Male, 15 Years	Father, Male, 36 Years	Educational Neglect	Unsubstantiated	

**Report Summary:**

An SCR report alleged that the oldest sibling had been absent 25 days of school and tardy 2 days. The second oldest sibling had been absent 27 days and tardy 3 days. Both siblings were failing as a result. The parents were made aware of the situation via phone calls and letters yet they failed to rectify the problem.

**Report Determination:** Unfounded**Date of Determination:** 06/01/2020**Basis for Determination:**

The siblings and mother reported the children missed so much school because they were not up in time so they missed the bus and the family did not have transportation to bring them to school. There were no health or safety concerns for the children. Shortly after receiving the investigation, schools closed for in-person instruction due to a pandemic. The children attended school virtually and no new school issues were reported for the children.

**OCFS Review Results:**

SLCDSS conducted home visits and interviewed the parents and children. The paternal grandparents resided in the home and they were not interviewed. Notice of Existence was provided to the parents, however the paternal grandparents were not added to the case or provided with Notice of Existence. Safety Assessments and the RAP were completed timely and accurately and relevant collaterals were contacted.

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

**Issue:**

Failure to provide notice of report

**Summary:**

The paternal grandparents were not provided with Notice of Existence of the report.

**Legal Reference:**

18 NYCRR 432.2(b)(3)(ii)(f)

**Action:**

SLCDSS will mail or deliver notification letters to subject(s), parent(s), and any other adult(s) named in the report within the first seven days following the receipt of the report. When other persons are identified as residing in the household they will be notified in writing as well.

**Issue:**

Failure to Conduct a Face-to-Face Interview (Subject/Family)

**Summary:**

Face-to-face interviews were not conducted with the paternal grandparents who resided in the home.

**Legal Reference:**

18 NYCRR 432.2(b)(3)(ii)(a)

**Action:**

SLCDSS will conduct face-to-face interviews with subjects of the report and family members of such subjects, including children named in the report.

Date of SCR Report	Alleged Victim(s)	Alleged Perpetrator(s)	Allegation(s)	Allegation Outcome	Compliance Issue(s)
09/03/2019	Sibling, Male, 15 Years	Mother, Female, 36 Years	Inadequate Food / Clothing / Shelter	Unsubstantiated	No

Sibling, Male, 15 Years	Mother, Female, 36 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated
Sibling, Male, 15 Years	Mother, Female, 36 Years	Parents Drug / Alcohol Misuse	Unsubstantiated
Sibling, Male, 14 Years	Mother, Female, 36 Years	Inadequate Food / Clothing / Shelter	Unsubstantiated
Sibling, Male, 14 Years	Mother, Female, 36 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated
Sibling, Male, 14 Years	Mother, Female, 36 Years	Parents Drug / Alcohol Misuse	Unsubstantiated
Deceased Child, Female, 11 Years	Mother, Female, 36 Years	Inadequate Food / Clothing / Shelter	Unsubstantiated
Deceased Child, Female, 11 Years	Mother, Female, 36 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated
Deceased Child, Female, 11 Years	Mother, Female, 36 Years	Parents Drug / Alcohol Misuse	Unsubstantiated
Sibling, Male, 15 Years	Grandparent, Male, 59 Years	Inadequate Food / Clothing / Shelter	Unsubstantiated
Sibling, Male, 15 Years	Grandparent, Male, 59 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated
Sibling, Male, 15 Years	Grandparent, Male, 59 Years	Parents Drug / Alcohol Misuse	Unsubstantiated
Sibling, Male, 14 Years	Grandparent, Male, 59 Years	Inadequate Food / Clothing / Shelter	Unsubstantiated
Sibling, Male, 14 Years	Grandparent, Male, 59 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated
Sibling, Male, 14 Years	Grandparent, Male, 59 Years	Parents Drug / Alcohol Misuse	Unsubstantiated
Deceased Child, Female, 11 Years	Grandparent, Male, 59 Years	Inadequate Food / Clothing / Shelter	Unsubstantiated
Deceased Child, Female, 11 Years	Grandparent, Male, 59 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated
Deceased Child, Female, 11 Years	Grandparent, Male, 59 Years	Parents Drug / Alcohol Misuse	Unsubstantiated
Sibling, Male, 15 Years	Father, Male, 36 Years	Inadequate Food / Clothing / Shelter	Unsubstantiated
Sibling, Male, 15 Years	Father, Male, 36 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated
Sibling, Male, 15 Years	Father, Male, 36 Years	Parents Drug / Alcohol Misuse	Unsubstantiated
Sibling, Male, 14 Years	Father, Male, 36 Years	Inadequate Food / Clothing / Shelter	Unsubstantiated
Sibling, Male, 14 Years	Father, Male, 36 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated
Sibling, Male, 14 Years	Father, Male, 36 Years	Parents Drug / Alcohol Misuse	Unsubstantiated
Deceased Child, Female, 11 Years	Father, Male, 36 Years	Inadequate Food / Clothing / Shelter	Unsubstantiated



Deceased Child, Female, 11 Years	Father, Male, 36 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated
Deceased Child, Female, 11 Years	Father, Male, 36 Years	Parents Drug / Alcohol Misuse	Unsubstantiated
Sibling, Male, 15 Years	Grandparent, Female, 55 Years	Inadequate Food / Clothing / Shelter	Unsubstantiated
Sibling, Male, 15 Years	Grandparent, Female, 55 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated
Sibling, Male, 15 Years	Grandparent, Female, 55 Years	Parents Drug / Alcohol Misuse	Unsubstantiated
Sibling, Male, 14 Years	Grandparent, Female, 55 Years	Inadequate Food / Clothing / Shelter	Unsubstantiated
Sibling, Male, 14 Years	Grandparent, Female, 55 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated
Sibling, Male, 14 Years	Grandparent, Female, 55 Years	Parents Drug / Alcohol Misuse	Unsubstantiated
Deceased Child, Female, 11 Years	Grandparent, Female, 55 Years	Inadequate Food / Clothing / Shelter	Unsubstantiated
Deceased Child, Female, 11 Years	Grandparent, Female, 55 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated
Deceased Child, Female, 11 Years	Grandparent, Female, 55 Years	Parents Drug / Alcohol Misuse	Unsubstantiated

**Report Summary:**

An SCR report alleged that on an ongoing basis the parents and paternal grandparents abused drugs in the presence of the children. In the past, the family manufactured drugs in the home. The children had access to the drugs and drug paraphernalia. On 9/2/19, the father was under the influence of drugs and he got into a physical altercation with the grandparents while the children were home. The home was in poor condition, unsafe and infested with bed bugs.

**Report Determination:** Unfounded

**Date of Determination:** 01/28/2020

**Basis for Determination:**

The parents reported that they had bed bugs in the past and they had purchased new beds. The home was found to be safe for the children and the children did not disclose any concerns. The grandparents were engaged in substance abuse treatment and the mother was prescribed medication. The father admitted to drug use, but he denied using in the home or around the children. The subject child was exhibiting behavioral concerns and she was referred for mental health treatment.

**OCFS Review Results:**

SLCDSS conducted a home visit and interviewed all household members. Notice of Existence was provided to the required adults and Safety Assessments and the RAP were completed timely. Relevant collaterals were contacted and the family was referred for the necessary services.

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

Date of SCR Report	Alleged Victim(s)	Alleged Perpetrator(s)	Allegation(s)	Allegation Outcome	Compliance Issue(s)
04/06/2019	Sibling, Male, 15 Years	Mother, Female, 36 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Substantiated	Yes



Sibling, Male, 14 Years	Mother, Female, 36 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Substantiated
Deceased Child, Female, 11 Years	Mother, Female, 36 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Substantiated
Sibling, Male, 15 Years	Father, Male, 36 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Substantiated
Sibling, Male, 14 Years	Father, Male, 36 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Substantiated
Deceased Child, Female, 11 Years	Father, Male, 36 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Substantiated
Sibling, Male, 15 Years	Father, Male, 36 Years	Parents Drug / Alcohol Misuse	Substantiated
Sibling, Male, 14 Years	Father, Male, 36 Years	Parents Drug / Alcohol Misuse	Substantiated
Deceased Child, Female, 11 Years	Father, Male, 36 Years	Parents Drug / Alcohol Misuse	Substantiated

**Report Summary:**

An SCR report alleged that the father used drugs for two consecutive weeks. He had not slept during that time period and he was agitated and aggressive. On 4/6/19, the oldest sibling tackled the father and the father hit the sibling in the face. Police had been to the home numerous times due to the father's drug use. The children were exposed to the situation on an ongoing basis.

**Report Determination:** Indicated**Date of Determination:** 06/11/2019**Basis for Determination:**

The father was under the influence of drugs, he was acting in an out of control manner and he hit the oldest sibling. There was an order of protection that the father violated by being around the children while under the influence of drugs. The mother was aware the father was impaired and she allowed him to be around the children. The father was arrested and incarcerated for a month for endangering the welfare of a child and criminal contempt. The father was referred for substance abuse treatment and the parents agreed to not allow anyone that was under the influence of drugs to be around the children.

**OCFS Review Results:**

The home was assessed to be safe and the parents and children were interviewed. Notice of Existence was provided to the parents and paternal grandfather, however the paternal grandmother was not provided with a Notice of Existence. Relevant collaterals were contacted. The father was advised that Family Court action would be sought if he continued to be around the children while under the influence of drugs. Although the children's safety was assessed within the required timeframe, the 7-Day Safety Assessment was completed four days late on 4/17/19.

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

**Issue:**

Timely/Adequate Seven Day Assessment

**Summary:**

Although the children's safety was assessed within the required timeframe, the 7-Day Safety Assessment was documented and approved four days late on 4/17/19.

**Legal Reference:**

SSL 424(3);18 NYCRR432.2(b)(3)(ii)(c)

**Action:**

SLCDSS will document and approve all Safety Assessments within the required timeframes.

**Issue:**

Failure to provide notice of report

**Summary:**



The paternal grandmother was not provided with Notice of Existence of the report.

**Legal Reference:**

18 NYCRR 432.2(b)(3)(ii)(f)

**Action:**

SLCDSS will mail or deliver notification letters to subject(s), parent(s), and any other adult(s) named in the report within the first seven days following the receipt of the report. When other persons are identified as residing in the household they will be notified in writing as well.

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

The mother, father, paternal grandparents and paternal aunt resided together and they had an extensive SCR history between 2012 and 2014 regarding the subject child, siblings and two cousins. There were seven indicated SCR reports during this time period for the allegations of IG, LS and PD/AM. There were additionally two FAR cases and one unfounded SCR report for the allegations of IG and LS.

The father had a history of substance abuse and criminal charges stemming from being under the influence of drugs while caring for the children. The grandparents, mother and aunt were aware of the father's drug use and they allowed him to continue to care for the children. The mother and aunt also had a history of substance abuse and there was a history of domestic violence between the mother and father. An Article 10 Neglect Petition was filed in 2014 and a court-ordered services case was opened.

Between 2015 and 2017 there were four unfounded SCR reports for the allegations of IG, LS, XCP, PD/AM and SA against the mother and there was one SCR report dated 2/1/17 with the allegations of LS, IF/C/S, IG and PD/AM against both parents.

An SCR report dated 8/16/17 was indicated for the allegations of IG and LS against the mother and her partner at the time regarding the subject child. On several occasions the subject child was found wandering the town without adult supervision.

### Known CPS History Outside of NYS

There was no known CPS history outside of New York State.

### Preventive Services History

A services case was opened on 4/18/14 to provide services to the parents, the subject child, the siblings, the paternal aunt, and two cousins. An Article 10 Neglect Petition was filed against the adults on 4/22/14 due to a history of substance abuse while caring for the children. An order of supervision was granted and an order of protection was issued barring the father from the home and any unsupervised contact with the children. The mother completed substance abuse services and obtained stable housing for her, the subject child and the siblings. The father was uncooperative with services, he continued to abuse substances and he was in and out of jail throughout the services case. The mother obtained Article 6 custody of the children and the father continued to have supervised visitation. The Family Court order of supervision expired on 2/28/17, and the mother, father and children were removed from the services case.

### 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