



Report Identification Number: SY-23-001

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

Issue Date: Jun 21, 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

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	DA-District Attorney	
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	SXTF-Sex Trafficking
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		



Case Information

Report Type: Child Deceased
Age: 16 year(s)

Jurisdiction: Oneida
Gender: Female

Date of Death: 12/29/2022
Initial Date OCFS Notified: 01/03/2023

Presenting Information

On 12/29/2022, Oneida County Department of Family and Community Services (OCDFCS) learned of the death of the 16-year-old subject child which occurred that day. The subject child and 3 children unrelated to this report left a placement facility without permission, and were in a serious car accident on the evening of 12/28/2022. The subject child was severely injured during the accident. Law enforcement and first responders arrived at the scene and transported the subject child to the hospital where she was pronounced deceased. At the time of her death, the subject child was open for foster care services with OCDFCS and was placed at a residential facility through OCFS.

Executive Summary

This report regards the death of the 16-year-old subject child which occurred on 12/29/2022. At the time of her death, the subject child was placed at a residential facility and was in the custody of OCDFCS. The subject child had been freed for adoption in 2015 and, as such, there were no surviving siblings or other household members at the time of the fatality.

On 12/28/2022, the subject child and 3 teenage children unrelated to this fatality report stole the car keys and cellphone of a staff member at their residential facility. The subject child and 3 other children took the staff member's car and left the facility without permission. The staff member contacted law enforcement to report the children had left the facility in a stolen vehicle. Law enforcement observed the vehicle travel through a stoplight and attempted to pull the vehicle over, but the vehicle sped off. Law enforcement pursued the vehicle. The vehicle left the roadway, crossed two medians, and struck a ditch. The law enforcement vehicle also crashed at that time.

Due to damage caused by the accident, first responders removed the subject child and 3 other children from the vehicle mechanically. The subject child was found restrained in the back seat; however, she was unresponsive and appeared to have been struck by the car door or window. The subject child and 2 of the other children were transported to the hospital where the subject child was pronounced deceased.

An autopsy was completed on 12/31/2022, and OCDFCS received a copy of the autopsy report and death certificate. The subject child's manner of death was listed as accidental, and the cause of death was listed as multiple blunt traumatic injuries due to, or as a consequence of motor vehicle collision. OCDFCS spoke with law enforcement and gathered records related to the motor vehicle accident. The record did not reflect if there were any charges or arrests related to the accident or if the law enforcement investigation remained ongoing at the time this report was written.

The fatality was not reported to the SCR and, as such, there were no allegations to be determined related to the fatality.

OCDFCS provided services in the form of funeral and burial arrangements.

PIP Requirement

This review resulted in a citation related to casework practice. In response, OCDFCS will submit a PIP to the Regional Office within 30 days of receipt of this report. The PIP will identify what actions the OCDFCS has taken, or will take, to address the cited issues. For citations where a PIP is currently implemented, OCDFCS will review the plans and revise as needed.



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 appropriate? N/A

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

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

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

Explain:

OCDFCS gathered information related to the circumstances of the fatality. The FSS remained open at the time this report was written.

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: 12/29/2022

Time of Death: 02:00 AM (Approximate)

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

12/28/2022

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

10:17 PM

County where fatality incident occurred:

Cortland

Was 911 or local emergency number called?

Yes

Time of Call:

10:23 PM

Did EMS respond to the scene?

Yes

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

No

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
Deceased Child's Household	Deceased Child	No Role	Female	16 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Institutional Staff	No Role	Unknown	21 Year(s)

LDSS Response

On 12/29/2022, the foster care agency informed OCDFCS and OCFS of the death of the subject child which occurred that day. The 7065 Agency Reporting Form was completed and provided as required. OCDFCS gathered information related to the death of the subject child and spoke with the foster care agency, law enforcement, hospital staff, service providers, and the office of the coroner.

The subject child was freed for adoption in 2015 and placed in a series of foster homes, pre-adoptive homes, respite facilities, and residential facilities. The subject child was placed with an OCFS secure detention facility on 1/20/2022, pursuant to an Article 3 Juvenile Delinquency family court proceeding. At the time of her death, the subject child had been placed in a less restrictive setting at a residential facility in Tompkins County, New York as of 8/15/2022.

The institutional staff member listed in the household composition is representative of the staff at the residential facility at which the subject child was placed.

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: Coroner

Multidisciplinary Investigation/Review

Was the fatality referred to an OCFS approved Child Fatality Review Team? Yes

Comments: The fatality was referred to Oneida County's Child Fatality Review Team.

CPS Fatality Casework/Investigative Activities

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



Child Fatality Report

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"/>

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

The subject child was listed as a non-maltreated child on 3 CPS investigations in 2016 which regarded unsubstantiated allegations against previous foster parents.

Known CPS History Outside of NYS

The was no known CPS history outside of NYS.

Family Assessment and Service Plan (FASP)

	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
Was the most recent FASP approved on time?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If not, how many days was it overdue? A reassessment FASP was due 10/1/2022 and was not completed and approved until 3/1/2023.				
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"/>

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: 03/06/2015

Date of placement with most recent caregiver? 08/15/2022



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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Was visitation facilitated in accordance with the regulations?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Was there supervision of visits as required?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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

	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
Did the agency provide the foster parents with required information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



regarding the child's health, handicaps, and behavioral issues?				
Did the provider comply with discipline standards?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Were the foster parents receiving enhanced levels of foster care payments because of child need?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If yes, was foster parent provided a training program approved by OCFS that prepared the foster parent with appropriate knowledge and skills to meet the needs of the child?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Was the certification/approval for the placement current?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Was a Criminal History check conducted? Date:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Was a check completed through the State Central Register? Date:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Was a check completed through the Staff Exclusion List? Date:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Additional information, if necessary:
The subject child had been freed for adoption in 2015 and was placed at a residential facility at the time of her death.

Required Action(s)

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

Yes No

Issue:	Failure to Complete a Plan Amendment
Summary:	A plan amendment FASP was not completed following the fatality.
Legal Reference:	18 NYCRR 428.7
Action:	OCDFCS will complete a plan amendment any time a significant change occurs in the status of the case, which includes when services end for a family member due to death. As required, this will be done within 30 days of the change if an initial FASP has already been completed, unless the change occurs within 60 days of the next FASP. In that instance, the change can be documented at that time.
Issue:	Timely/Adequate Case Recording/Progress Notes
Summary:	18 of the 39 progress notes between August 2022 and December 2022 were entered over 30 days after their corresponding event date.
Legal Reference:	18 NYCRR 428.5
Action:	Progress notes must be made as contemporaneously as possible with the occurrence of the event or the receipt of the information which is to be recorded.
Issue:	Timeliness of completion of FASP
Summary:	FASPs were not completed timely. At the time of the death, the most recently completed FASP was completed 10/21/2021. The reassessment FASP due in April 2022 was not completed and the reassessment FASP due 10/11/2022 was completed 3/1/2023.
Legal Reference:	18 NYCRR428.3(f)



Action: OCDFCS will complete, or see to the completion of FASPs by service providers when applicable, in a timely fashion when OCDFCS maintains a case management role.

Foster Care Placement History

A Family Services Stage was opened 3/6/2015 when the subject child was freed for adoption. The subject child was provided foster care services, case management services, mental health services, and adoption services. The subject child was placed in a number of foster homes, respite homes, and residential facilities; however, permanency was unable to be achieved due to multiple circumstances including issues at foster homes, the subject child's behaviors, the closure of residential facilities, and the subject child's eventual unwillingness to consent to adoption. The FSS remained open at the time of the subject child's death.

Legal History Within Three Years Prior to the Fatality

Was there any legal activity within three years prior to the fatality investigation?

Family Court Criminal Court Order of Protection

Family Court Petition Type: FCA Article 3 - JD

Date Filed:	Fact Finding Description:	Disposition Description:
Unknown	Adjudicated JD	Care/Custody to OCFS Commissioner
Respondent:	None	
Comments:	The subject child was placed in the joint custody of OCFS and OCDCFS.	

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