



Report Identification Number: NY-19-021

Prepared by: New York City Regional Office

Issue Date: Jul 08, 2019

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Abbreviations

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		



Case Information

Report Type: Child Deceased
Age: 5 month(s)

Jurisdiction: Richmond
Gender: Female

Date of Death: 02/24/2019
Initial Date OCFS Notified: 02/24/2019

Presenting Information

The SCR report alleged on the morning of 2/24/19, the mother woke up at 3:00 AM and the infant appeared fine. When the mother woke up again later in the morning, the infant was unresponsive. The infant was co-sleeping in the bed with the mother. The mother left the home with child and walked to the hospital. The mother arrived at the hospital at 7:00 AM with the infant. The infant was pronounced deceased at 7:25 AM on 2/24/19. The infant was an otherwise healthy child with no known medical concerns.

Executive Summary

On 2/24/19, the New York City Administration for Children’s Services (ACS) received an SCR report regarding the death of the five-month-old female infant.

ACS learned the mother woke up on 2/24/19 at 6:30 AM and found the infant unresponsive in the adult bed with a pillow covering her face. The mother called a cab and brought the infant to Richmond University Medical Center. They arrived at the hospital at 7:00 AM and attempts were made to resuscitate her. The infant was pronounced deceased by the ER physician at 7:25 AM.

The maternal grandmother resided in the home and was at work at the time of the incident. The father did not reside with the mother and he was not present for the incident. ACS briefly met with the father and their attempts to interview him were unsuccessful. Neither parent had any other children and they had never been the subject of an SCR report.

An autopsy was performed and the cause and manner of death were “undetermined” with a notation “bed-sharing with an adult with soft bedding”. The ME stated the determination was based on an unsafe sleep environment that had the potential for smothering or overlay. He said the likelihood of this was high, although there was no proof of the smothering or overlay, and no other clear explanation as to why the child died. The law enforcement investigation remained open and there were no criminal charges filed.

ACS appropriately referred the mother for bereavement services and the investigation remained open at the time this report was written.

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? The CPS report had not yet been determined at the time this Fatality report was issued.
- Was the determination made by the district to unfound or indicate appropriate? N/A

Was the decision to close the case appropriate? N/A
 Was casework activity commensurate with appropriate and relevant statutory or regulatory requirements? Yes
 Was there sufficient documentation of supervisory consultation? Yes, the case record has detail of the consultation.

Explain:
 The case 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: 02/24/2019 Time of Death: 07:25 AM
 Time of fatal incident, if different than time of death: Unknown
 County where fatality incident occurred: Richmond
 Was 911 or local emergency number called? No
 Did EMS respond to the scene? No
 At time of incident leading to death, had child used alcohol or drugs? N/A
 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
 How long before incident was the child last seen by caretaker? 7 Hours

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

Adults: 0

Household Composition at time of Fatality

Household	Relationship	Role	Gender	Age
Deceased Child's Household	Deceased Child	Alleged Victim	Female	5 Month(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Grandparent	No Role	Female	64 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Mother	Alleged Perpetrator	Female	34 Year(s)
Other Household 1	Father	No Role	Male	29 Year(s)

LDSS Response

Upon receiving the SCR report, ACS spoke to the source, hospital staff and law enforcement. The detective stated that he had been to the home and observed that the full-sized bed the infant slept in with the mother had lots of blankets and pillows. He felt it was plausible that a pillow fell onto the infant and no criminality was suspected at that point. ACS searched SCR history, attempted a home visit, and spoke to the mother at a relative's home.

The mother stated she placed the infant on her back on the full-sized bed between 11:00 PM and 12:00 AM on 2/23/19. The bed was up against the wall and the infant was positioned on the inside of the bed, with a pillow between the infant and the wall. The mother slept on the outside of the bed, with her back to the infant. The mother woke up around 6:00 AM and rolled over to check on the infant. She saw that the infant was still on her back and the pillow that was between the infant and the wall was covering the infant's face. The infant's body was limp and she was not breathing. The mother called a cab at 6:44 AM and the cab arrived about five minutes later. The mother said she did not call 911 because she had nosy neighbors and didn't want them in her business. The mother did not know how to perform CPR and blew 2-3 breaths into the infant's mouth on the way to the hospital. They arrived at the hospital at 7:00 AM and the doctors immediately started CPR.

The mother denied that she used any drugs or alcohol on the night of the incident. She reported the infant was healthy, had no pre-existing medical condition and was developmentally on target. The mother stated the hospital educated her about safe sleep when the infant was born and that it was safest to place the infant on her back to sleep. ACS offered the mother and grandmother bereavement counseling services and the mother accepted.

A home visit was conducted on 2/25/19 and the full-sized bed was observed to have multiple pillows, with several of the pillows along the wall. There was a portable crib in the mother's bedroom which had several items inside, including a blanket, stuffed animals, and a baby jungle gym. The mother reported she co-slept with the infant every night since the infant became "fussy" when placed in the portable crib. The mother reported the infant often visited the father at his home and confirmed the father was not present for the incident. ACS briefly met with the father and he declined to complete a full interview.

The maternal grandmother reported she was working an overnight shift on 2/23/19 and she received a message from the mother informing her of the incident. She arrived at the hospital after the infant passed away. She had no concerns for the care the mother provided to the infant. Additional relatives and the infant's pediatrician were contacted and had no concerns for the infant's care.

ACS conducted a thorough investigation, contacted numerous collaterals and referred the family for the appropriate services.



Child Fatality Report

Official Manner and Cause of Death

Official Manner: Undetermined

Primary Cause of Death: Undetermined if injury or medical cause

Person Declaring Official Manner and Cause of Death: Medical Examiner

Multidisciplinary Investigation/Review

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

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

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

SCR Fatality Report Summary

Alleged Victim(s)	Alleged Perpetrator(s)	Allegation(s)	Allegation Outcome
050508 - Deceased Child, Female, 5 Mons	050509 - Mother, Female, 34 Year(s)	Inadequate Guardianship	Pending
050508 - Deceased Child, Female, 5 Mons	050509 - Mother, Female, 34 Year(s)	DOA / Fatality	Pending

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"/>
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"/>
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



Child Fatality Report

Were there any surviving siblings or other children in the household?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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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 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 checked="" 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 parent(s) and other care givers to address any immediate needs related to the fatality? Yes

Explain:

The family was referred for bereavement services.

History Prior to the Fatality



Child Information

- Did the child have a history of alleged child abuse/maltreatment? No
- 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 Had heavy alcohol use
- Misused over-the-counter or prescription drugs Smoked tobacco
- Experienced domestic violence Used illicit drugs
- Was not noted in the case record to have any of the issues listed

Infant was born:

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

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

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

Known CPS History Outside of NYS

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

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