

Report Identification Number: NY-21-107

Prepared by: New York City Regional Office

Issue Date: Mar 29, 2022

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 <u>only</u> 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		
DrDoctor	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	ACS-Administration for Children's	NYPD-New York City Police		
Service	Services	Department		
PPRS-Purchased Preventive	TANF-Temporary Assistance to Needy	FC-Foster Care		
Rehabilitative Services	Families			
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 **Jurisdiction:** Kings **Date of Death:** 10/06/2021

Age: 24 day(s) Gender: Female Initial Date OCFS Notified: 10/06/2021

Presenting Information

On 10/6/21 the mother placed the 24-day-old child sleeping on her chest while lying in the bed. At approximately 1:00AM the mother placed the child down next to her on the bed. Sometime between 1:00AM and 2:00AM, the mother awoke to find the child breathing hard and with blood around her mouth. The mother contacted her brother and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and was instructed to perform Cardio Pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) on the child. When the mother began CPR, blood also came out of the child's nose. EMS arrived at the home and began CPR. They then transported the child to the hospital where she was pronounced dead at 3:35AM. The cause of death was not immediately known. The report alleged the child was an otherwise healthy child which made her death suspicious in nature. The 7-year-old surviving sibling and grandparents were present in the home and had unknown roles.

Executive Summary

This 24-day-old female child died on 10/6/21. As of 3/18/22, OCFS NYCRO had not yet received a copy of the autopsy report from the Medical Examiner.

At the time of the incident, the child resided with her mother, a 7-year-old female sibling, and maternal grandparents. The father resided elsewhere with a friend.

ACS' investigation revealed the mother went to bed at approximately midnight and placed the child on her chest to sleep. This was a routine for the mother. The mother then placed the child in a supine position on the bed which had a memory foam mattress. The mother awoke between 2:00AM and 2:30AM after she heard gurgling sounds coming from the child. The mother checked the child and noticed the child was lying sideways and there was blood coming from the child's nose. The mother began CPR and called 911 at 2:10AM. EMS responded to the home, initiated advanced critical care and transported the child to the hospital where resuscitative efforts were continued for 35 minutes. The child did not respond and was pronounced dead at 3:35AM.

ACS contacted pertinent collaterals including law enforcement, medical team at the hospital where the child was taken , and the ME. The ME reported no concerns for injury or maltreatment; however, the toxicology report and other tests were pending. The ME reported the mother received prenatal care and mentioned co-sleeping as a risk factor in the child's death. The ME said the mother denied rolling over the child.

Law enforcement explained no arrests would be made as it appeared the child's death was the result of an accident, and no foul play was suspected.

ACS' contact with the medical team reflected when the child was brought to the hospital, the ER team continued CPR for 35 minutes. The medical team reported there were no marks or bruises on the child. ACS was informed the child was born premature at 35 weeks.

ACS conducted visits to the home and documented there were adequate arrangements for the children and there were no safety concerns in the home. ACS also interviewed the grandparents, the surviving sibling, and the unrelated home member. None had any concerns regarding the care the mother provided. ACS located and interviewed the father who resided elsewhere. He described the mother as being a good parent and he had no concerns. The parents of the child were provided with referrals for bereavement services. The 7-year-old surviving sibling was engaged in therapy.

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On 12/4/21, ACS unsubstantiated the allegations of the report on the basis of no credible evidence that the mother failed to provide adequate care for her child. ACS documented the child had a medical condition which was believed to have caused her death. However, NYCRO does not agree with the determination regarding the allegation of inadequate Guardianship. The child was placed in two unsafe sleep position, first on the mother's chest and then on the mother's bed which had a memory foam mattress. Additionally, the ME noted the risk of the co-sleeping with this 24-day-old child.

Findings Related to the CPS Investigation of the Fatality

Safety A	Assessment:
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- Was sufficient information gathered to make the decision recorded on the:
 - o 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?

No

Explain:

Casework activity, which includes contact with the family and others from the receipt of the report through case conclusion, was commensurate with the case circumstances. However, the determination did not incorporate key information obtained and ACS did not appropriately apply the statutory standards for abuse/maltreatment to the facts of the case when addressing the allegation of IG.

Was the decision to close the case appropriate?

Yes

Was casework activity commensurate with appropriate and relevant statutory Yes

or regulatory requirements?

Was there sufficient documentation of supervisory consultation?

Yes, the case record has detail of the

consultation.

Explain:

The level of casework activity, which includes contact with the family and others from the receipt of the report through case conclusion, was commensurate with the case circumstances

Required Action	ons Related	to the	Fatality
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Are there Required Actions related to the compliance issue(s)?

Yes

No



Issue:	Appropriateness of allegation determination
Summary:	ACS did not appropriately determine the allegation of Inadequate Guardianship of the child especially as it related to unsafe sleep.
Legal Reference:	FCA 1012 (e) & (f);18 NYCRR 432.2(b)(3)(iv)
Action:	ACS must submit a PIP within 45 days that identifies the action the agency has taken or will take to address the citations identified in the fatality report. ACS must meet with the staff involved with this fatality investigation and inform NYCRO of the date of the meeting, who attended and what was discussed.

Fatality-Related Information and Investigative Activities

	Incident Info	ormation	
Date of Death: 10/06/2021	Ti	ime of Death: 03:35 AM	
Time of fatal incident, if diff	erent than time of death:		01:30 AM
County where fatality incide	nt occurred:		Kings
Was 911 or local emergency	number called?		Yes
Time of Call:			02:10 AM
Did EMS respond to the scen	ne?		Yes
At time of incident leading to	o death, had child used alcohol	or drugs?	No
Child's activity at time of inc	cident:	_	
	☐ Working	☐ Driving	/ Vehicle occupant
Playing	☐ Eating	Unknov	vn
Other	-		
-	t time of incident leading to deary rvisor impaired? Not impaired. or was:	ath? Yes	
⊠ Asleep		Other:	
Total number of deaths at in Children ages 0-18: 1 Adults: 0	cident event:		

Household Composition at time of Fatality

Household	Relationship	Role	Gender	Age
Deceased Child's Household	Deceased Child	Alleged Victim	Female	24 Day(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Grandparent	No Role	Male	65 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Grandparent	No Role	Female	56 Year(s)



Deceased Child's Household	Mother	Alleged Perpetrator	Female	28 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Sibling	No Role	Female	7 Year(s)
Other Household 1	Father	No Role	Male	26 Year(s)
Other Household 1	Unrelated Home Member	No Role	Male	28 Year(s)

LDSS Response

Upon receipt of the report, ACS contacted hospital staff, LE, the ME, and family members. The hospital staff found no signs of abuse on the SC and ME reported no concerns for injury or maltreatment. The ME stated that co-sleeping was a risk; however, there was no definitive way to determine whether the SM rolled over on the child. LE found no criminality. The ADA reported their investigation was closed as the SC had health issues and the SM had complications throughout the pregnancy based on the medical records.

On 10/6/21, ACS interviewed the SM who stated the SC was well, she ate and slept regularly and displayed no sign of illness. The SM laid the SC on her (SM's) belly to soothe and put her to sleep at approximately midnight. At 1:15AM, she laid the SC on her back in the bed next to her. The SC was wrapped in a receiving blanket with another receiving blanket underneath. The SM explained the SC was fussy and awoke often when placed in the bassinet. The SM was adamant she did not roll over on the SC. The SM had plans to relocate but the SC was born unexpectedly. The SM said the MGPs and MU were her support.

According to ACS' case documentation, the SC's basic needs were being met. The SM was advised during prenatal care of the health concerns to her and the unborn child. The SC was born at 35 weeks and diagnosed with two medical conditions. The child was discharged without treatment and recommended follow-up with the pediatrician. The SM followed-up with visits on 9/16/21 and 9/23/21; the SC was deemed a well child.

According to the SM, the SS showed no signs the SC's death had a negative effect on her. She attended school regularly and was on target. ACS received information that verified both children were up to date with immunizations and had received appropriate medical services.

On 10/6/21, ACS interviewed the MU and MGP who reported no concerns with the care the SM provided. The family denied drug/alcohol abuse, MH conditions, and DV in the home. The collateral contacts had no concerns regarding the family. The SS's father reported no concerns for the care the SM provided and stated that they co-parented well. ACS also interviewed the SC's father who had no concerns.

During the investigation, ACS made all appropriate collateral contacts and there were no concerns or criminality found in the investigation.

On 12/4/21 ACS unsubstantiated the allegations of DOA/Fatality and IG of the SC by the SM citing their investigation yielded no credible evidence to support the substantiation of the allegations.

Official Manner and Cause of Death

Official Manner: Pending

Primary Cause of Death: Pending

Person Declaring Official Manner and Cause of Death: Medical Examiner

Multidisciplinary Investigation/Review

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

Was the fatality referred to an OCFS approved Child Fatality Review Team? No Comments: There is no OCFS Child Fatality Review Team in the NYC Region.

SCR Fatality Report Summary

Alleged Victim(s)	Alleged Perpetrator(s)	Allegation(s)	Allegation Outcome
060041 - Deceased Child, Female, 24 Days	060042 - Mother, Female, 28 Year(s)	DOA / Fatality	Unsubstantiated
060041 - Deceased Child, Female, 24 Days	1	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated

CPS Fatality Casework/Investigative Activities

	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
All children observed?				
When appropriate, children were interviewed?				
Alleged subject(s) interviewed face-to-face?	\boxtimes			
All 'other persons named' interviewed face-to-face?	\boxtimes			
Contact with source?	\boxtimes			
All appropriate Collaterals contacted?	\boxtimes			
Was a death-scene investigation performed?	\boxtimes			
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)?	\boxtimes			
Coordination of investigation with law enforcement?				
Was there timely entry of progress notes and other required documentation?	\boxtimes			

Fatality Safety Assessment Activities

	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
Were there any surviving siblings or other children in the household?	\boxtimes			
Was there an adequate assessment of impending or immediate danger to shousehold named in the report:	surviving	siblings/o	ther child	lren in the
Within 24 hours?	\boxtimes			
At 7 days?	\boxtimes			
At 30 days?	\boxtimes			



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Was there an approved Initial Safety Assessment for all surviving siblings/ other children in the household within 24 hours?				
Are there any safety issues that need to be referred back to the local district?				
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?			\boxtimes	
Fatality Risk Assessment / Risk Assessment	Profile			
·				
	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
Was the risk assessment/RAP adequate in this case?				
During the course of the investigation, was sufficient information gathered to assess risk to all surviving siblings/other children in the household?				
Was there an adequate assessment of the family's need for services?	\boxtimes			
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?				
Were appropriate/needed services offered in this case	\boxtimes			
Explain: Sufficient information was gathered to assess risk to the surviving children in t services; however, the parents refused for themselves. The 7-year-old was engaged			family wa	s referred for
Placement Activities in Response to the Fatality In	vestigatio	n		
				T T 11 (
	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?		\boxtimes		
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?		\boxtimes		
Legal Activity Related to the Fatality				
Was there legal activity as a result of the fatality investigation? There was n	o legal ac	etivity.		

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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		\boxtimes					
Economic support						\boxtimes	
Funeral arrangements			\boxtimes				
Housing assistance						\boxtimes	
Mental health services							
Foster care						\boxtimes	
Health care						\boxtimes	
Legal services						\boxtimes	
Family planning							
Homemaking Services							
Parenting Skills							
Domestic Violence Services						\boxtimes	
Early Intervention						\boxtimes	
Alcohol/Substance abuse						\boxtimes	
Child Care						\boxtimes	
Intensive case management							
Family or others as safety resources						\boxtimes	
Other						\boxtimes	

Were services provided to siblings or other children in the household to address any immediate needs and support their well-being in response to the fatality? Yes

Explain:

The 7-year-old was engaged in therapy.

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

Explain:

Attempts were made to engage the parents; however, thy refused.

History Prior to the Fatality

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 ☐ Misused over-the-counter or prescription drugs ☐ Experienced domestic violence ☐ Was not noted in the case record to have any of the issues listed	☐ Had heavy alcohol use ☐ Smoked tobacco ☐ Used illicit drugs					
Infant was born: ☐ Drug exposed ☐ With neither of the issues listed noted in case record	☐ With fetal alcohol effects or syndrome					
CPS - Investigative History Three Years Prior to the Fatality						
There is no CPS investigative history in NYS within three years prior to the fatality.						
CPS - Investigative History More Than Three Years Prior to the Fatality						
There was no CPS investigative history more than three years prior to the fatality.						
Known CPS History Outside of NYS						
The was no known CPS history outside of NYS.						
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						

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