

6-Month Final Summary Report for Child Death, Serious Injury or Egregious Incident

Reports submitted to the Division of Safety and Permanence (DSP) that do not include all of the required information will be returned to the agency for proper completion. Do not identify individuals by name when completing this report. Individuals may be referenced by relationship or position; e.g., mother, father, child, sibling, physician, detective, etc.

Case Tracking Number: 140305DSP-Wood-421 **Agency:** Wood County Department of Social Services

Child Information (at time of incident)

Age: 3 Weeks Gender: Female Male

Race or Ethnicity: Caucasian

Special Needs: None

Date of Incident: March 5, 2014

Description of the incident, including the suspected cause of death, injury or egregious abuse or neglect:

On March 5, 2014, the agency received a report regarding a three-week-old infant brought to the hospital with head injuries. Medical professionals who examined the infant suspected head trauma due to the infant's presenting symptoms, so the infant was transported to another hospital. Law enforcement was contacted and initiated a criminal investigation regarding the infant's suspicious injuries.

The mother reported the infant was in the care of his father while she was in the bathroom. The mother stated she heard a noise, came out of the bathroom, and found the infant lying face down with his father on the kitchen floor. The mother stated she took the infant into the bedroom to console him while she called the paternal grandmother. The mother noticed a bump on the left and right side of the infant's head. The mother reported the father got up from the kitchen floor approximately ten minutes later and indicated he did not remember what happened. Once the paternal grandmother arrived at the residence, the mother stated she took the infant to the emergency room. The father was interviewed and reported to have passed out and fell straight back.

Medical personnel determined the infant sustained skull and rib fractures. No criminal charges have been filed in this case.

Findings by agency, including maltreatment determination and material circumstances leading to incident:

The agency collaborated with law enforcement and medical personnel to complete the assessment. The Initial Assessment completed by the agency found a preponderance of the evidence to substantiate maltreatment of physical abuse to the infant by the father. Medical professionals determined the infant sustained head injuries and rib fractures. The infant was deemed unsafe and taken into Temporary Physical Custody. Upon discharge from the hospital, the infant was placed in out-of-home care. A Child in Need of Protection or Services petition was filed and the case remained open to provide ongoing case management services.

Yes No Criminal investigation pending or completed?

Yes No Criminal charges filed? If yes, against whom?

Child's residence at the time of incident: In-home Out-of-home care placement

Complete the appropriate following section (A. or B. based on the child's residence at the time of the incident).

A. Children residing at home at the time of the incident:

Description of the child's family (includes household members, noncustodial parent and other children that have visitation with the child and / or in the child's family home):

At the time of the incident, the infant resided with his mother and his father. The infant's 14-year-old half-brother, 13-year-old half-brother, and 11-year-old half-sister reside with their biological father.

Yes **No** **Statement of Services:** Were services under ch. 48 or ch. 938 being provided to the child, any member of the child's family or alleged maltreater at the time of the incident, including any referrals received by the agency or reports being investigated at time of incident?

If "Yes", briefly describe the type of services, date(s) of last contact between agency and recipient(s) of those services, and the person(s) receiving those services:

At the time of the incident, the 14-year-old child and 11-year-old child were in out-of-home care under a Child in Need of Protection or Services order for a substantiation of sexual abuse to the 11-year-old child by her step-father (the infant's biological father). As a result of that substantiation, the agency also filed a Child in Need of Protection or Services petition on behalf of the infant; however, the petition was dismissed in court. The last face-to-face contact by the agency with the mother and the 14-year-old and 11-year-old children occurred at their Child in Need of Protection or Services Dispositional hearing on February 26, 2014.

Summary of all involvement in services as adults under ch. 48 or ch. 938 by child's parents or alleged maltreater in the previous five years: (Does not include the current incident.)

On December 24, 2013, the agency screened-in a CPS Report alleging sexual abuse to the 11-year-old child by her step-father. An assessment was completed by the agency and the allegation of sexual abuse was substantiated. The 14-year-old and 11-year-old children were deemed unsafe and placed with their biological father. On January 31, 2014, the agency filed a Child in Need of Protection or Services petition. The case remained open to provide ongoing case management services.

Summary of actions taken by the agency under ch. 48, including any investigation of a report or referrals to services involving the child, any member of the child's family living in this household and the child's parents and alleged maltreater. (Does not include the current incident.)

(Note: Screened out reports listed in this section may include only the date of the report, screening decision, and if a referral to services occurred at Access. Reports that do not constitute a reasonable suspicion of maltreatment or a reason to believe that the child is threatened with harm are not required to be screened in for an initial assessment, and no further action is required by the agency.)

On April 27, 2009, the agency screened-in a Services Report requesting services for the family. The agency provided the family with housing resources.

On April 12, 2010, the agency screened-out a CPS Report.

On July 16, 2010, the agency screened-out a Services Report.

On May 30, 2012, the agency screened-out a CPS Report.

On December 24, 2013, the agency screened-in a CPS Report alleging sexual abuse by the step-father to the 11-year-old child. An assessment was completed by the agency and the allegation of sexual abuse by the step-father to the 11-year-old child was substantiated. The 14-year-old child and 11-year-old child were deemed unsafe and placed with their biological father.

On February 11, 2014, the agency screened-out a CPS Report.

Summary of any investigation involving the child, any member of the child's family and alleged maltreater conducted under ch. 48 or ch. 938 and any services provided to the child and child's family since the date of the incident:

The agency collaborated with law enforcement and medical professionals to complete the assessment. The Initial Assessment completed by the agency found a preponderance of evidence to substantiate maltreatment of physical abuse to the infant by the father. Medical professionals determined the infant sustained head injuries and rib fractures. The infant was deemed unsafe, taken into Temporary Physical Custody, and placed in out-of-home care. A Child in Need of Protection or Services petition was filed and the case remained open to provide ongoing case management services.

B. Children residing in out-of-home care (OHC) placement at time of incident:

Description of the OHC placement and basis for decision to place child there:

N/A

Description of all other persons residing in the OHC placement home:

N/A

Licensing history: Including type of license, duration of license, summary of any violations by licensee or an employee of licensee that constitutes a substantial failure to protect and promote the welfare of the child.

N/A

Summary of any actions taken by agency in response to the incident: (Check all that apply.)

- | | |
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Screening of Access report | <input type="checkbox"/> Attempted or successful reunification |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protective plan implemented | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referral to services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initial assessment conducted | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation assistance |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Safety plan implemented | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collaboration with law enforcement |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Temporary physical custody of child | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collaboration with medical professionals |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Petitioned for court order / CHIPS (child in need of protection or services) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supervised visitation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Placement into foster home | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Case remains open for services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Placement with relatives | <input type="checkbox"/> Case closed by agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing Services case management | <input type="checkbox"/> Initiated efforts to address or enhance community collaboration on CA/N cases |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe): |

FOR DSP COMPLETION ONLY:

Summary of policy or practice changes to address issues identified during the review of the incident:

Under the Child Welfare Disclosure Act (Section 48.981(7)(cr), Stats.), the Department of Children and Families' (DCF) Division of Safety and Permanence (DSP) completes an initial review of the agency's practice for each case reported under the Act. A further practice review has been completed for case 140305DSP-Wood-421. As a result of this review process, DSP determined the agency implemented steps to improve the consistency and quality of safety assessment and decision-making practices.

Recommendations for further changes in policies, practices, rules or statutes needed to address identified issues:

Based on the agency's effort and response to this incident and DSP review, no further statewide policy, practice, or statutory changes are recommended.

- Yes No Not Applicable This 6-Month final summary report completes the Division of Safety and Permanence (DSP) review of this case.