

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: 121016DSP-Brown-264 **Agency:** Brown County Department of Human Services

Child Information (at time of incident)

Age: 12 years Gender: Female Male

Race or Ethnicity: Caucasian

Special Needs: None

Date of Incident: 10/22/12

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

On 10/16/12, the agency was made aware of concerns regarding alleged physical and emotional abuse to the child by her father's girlfriend. A worker from the agency met with the child on 10/22/12 and the child shared information consistent with the reported information. The agency worker was notified the child did not show up for school on 10/23/12, so the worker went to the home to check on the child. The child disclosed that on the evening on 10/22/12, the father's girlfriend found the agency worker's business card in the pocket of the child's clothes. The father's girlfriend dragged and pulled the child by her hair. The father's girlfriend started screaming and swearing at the child. The father's girlfriend also threw her into a chair and the child hit her head on the refrigerator. The father's girlfriend put blue painters tape over the child's mouth because the child was crying. The father's girlfriend then taped the child's ankles together and taped her arms together over her head because she would not hold them in the air. The child was instructed to stand in the middle of the kitchen floor and not to move. The child reported falling several times as her legs were getting tired and the father's girlfriend would pull the child back to her feet by her hair. This incident reportedly went on for several hours before the father's girlfriend cut the tape. When the tape was removed, the child had to continue standing completely still with her arms in the air. The child reported this continued until 3:00 am. The child also reported she had to sleep on the kitchen floor with no pillow or blanket that night. The father's girlfriend was criminally charged with one count of Child Abuse-Intentionally Cause Harm and one count of Causing Mental Harm to the Child and was found guilty.

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

The agency collaborated with law enforcement to complete the assessment. Emotional abuse of the child by the father's girlfriend was substantiated. During the course of the assessment, the agency determined a pattern of physical and emotional abuse to the child by the father's girlfriend, which occurred over several years. The child was made to repeat her chores over and over because the father's girlfriend did not think she did them correctly. The child was also disciplined by running up and down the stairs or outside for long periods of time. The child was made to stand in the corner with her arms in the air for hours. The father's girlfriend allowed the other children in the home to spit on the child, punch her in the face, and pull her hair. The child also disclosed having to sleep on the floor of a closet at times as punishment. The father reported feeling bad that he did not intervene; however, he was afraid if he tried to step in it would make things worse for the child. The child was placed in the home of her biological mother and the other three children are in the home with the father. The father's girlfriend is not allowed contact with the children, the father or the residence per the criminal court.

Yes No Criminal investigation pending or completed?

Yes No Criminal charges filed? If yes, against whom? The father's girlfriend

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):

The child lived with her father, the father's girlfriend, the girlfriend's 15-year-old son, 13-year-old sister, and 7-year-old half-brother.

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:

The agency screened in a CPS report on 10/16/12 which was being assessed at the time of the incident. The worker met with the child at school on 10/22/12.

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.)

Shawano County provided ongoing case management services to the child’s mother from 8/25/06 until 11/13/07. Shawano County determined abuse was likely to occur after the mother became pregnant and made plans to move in with the man who had allegedly sexually abused her daughters the previous year.

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 5/22/97, Milwaukee County screened in an allegation of physical abuse to the 1-month-old (now 15-year-old) by the father’s girlfriend.

On 12/1/05, Shawano County screened in an allegation of sexual abuse to the 5-year-old (now 12-year-old) and 6-year-old (now 13-year-old) by the mother’s boyfriend. Sexual abuse was unsubstantiated and the agency closed the case.

On 5/3/06, Shawano County screened in a services report. The agency converted this report to a child protection services report on 5/18/06.

On 5/18/06, Shawano County screened in an allegation of abuse likely to occur to the 6-year-old (now 12-year-old) and 7-year-old (now 13-year-old) by the mother and the mother’s boyfriend. The agency substantiated the allegation and opened the case for ongoing case management services. The case was closed on 11/13/07.

On 8/28/07, Shawano County screened out a services report.

On 12/31/07, Shawano County screened out an allegation of physical abuse to the 7-year-old (now 12-year-old) by the father’s girlfriend.

On 12/31/07, the agency screened in an allegation of physical abuse to the 7-year-old (now 12-year-old) by the father’s girlfriend. Physical abuse was unsubstantiated and the agency referred the family to community services.

On 2/4/09, Shawano County screened out an allegation of past sexual abuse to the 8-year-old (now 12-year-old) by the mother’s boyfriend. The agency screened out the report as the allegations were assessed in 2005.

On 7/23/12, Shawano County screened out an allegation of neglect to the child’s 5-year-old brother by the mother.

On 9/18/12, the agency screened out an allegation of emotional abuse to the 12-year-old by the stepmother.

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 to complete the assessment. Emotional abuse was substantiated. The child was placed in the home of her mother and other three children remained in the home with the father. The agency filed Child in Need of Protection or Services Petitions in juvenile. The father’s girlfriend is not allowed contact with the children, the father or the residence per criminal court. The family continues to receive ongoing case management services from the agency.

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

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

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

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.

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Screening of Access report | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attempted or successful reunification |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protective plan implemented | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referral to services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initial assessment conducted | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Collaboration with medical professionals |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Petitioned for court order / CHIPS (child in need of protection or services) | <input type="checkbox"/> Supervised visitation |
| <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ongoing Services case management | <input checked="" 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 DSP completes a 90-day review of the agency's practice in each case reported under the Act. In accordance with the DCF memo Series 2010-13, dated December 7, 2010 pertaining to the Child Welfare Case Review Protocol, the DSP completed an on-site review in case #121016DSP-Brown-264. The review found two Child Protective Services (CPS) Reports from 2012 were screened out in error. The Initial Assessment and safety determinations completed in relation to this case were not in accordance with the Wisconsin Child Protective Services Access and Initial Assessment Standards and Safety Intervention Standards.

The Quality Improvement plan implemented by the agency included restructuring the unit responsible for Child Protective Services, community outreach, staff and supervisory training, internal policy improvement and participation in initiatives focused on improving child welfare. The agency reorganized and increased staff responsible for CPS work. The agency created an emergency line to receive Access reports and communicated with Mandated Reporters in an attempt to make improvements around reporting and receipt of reports. Staff completed all the necessary trainings related to Access, Initial Assessment and Safety. All supervisory staff participated in the Supervising Safety training provided by the state. The agency improved internal policy and procedures related to CPS. Additionally, the agency participates in various initiatives aimed at improving practice related to child welfare.

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

None

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