

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: 241230DSP-Tremp-1362 **Agency:** Trempealeau County Department of Human Services

Child Information (at time of incident)

Age: 13 years Gender: Female Male

Race or Ethnicity: White

Special Needs: None

Date of Incident: 12/30/2024

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

On January 2, 2025, the agency received a report regarding a 13-year-old child pronounced deceased on December 30, 2024. Law enforcement was contacted and initiated a criminal investigation. The Medical Examiner's office determined the child's death was non-accidental in nature. As a result of law enforcement's investigation, the mother's cousin other was criminally charged with First Degree Intentional Homicide, Hiding a Corpse, Possession of a Firearm by a Felon, Operating a Motor Vehicle without Owner's Consent and Obstructing an Officer. A criminal charge is merely an allegation, and a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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

The agency collaborated with law enforcement and medical professionals to complete the assessment. The Medical Examiner's office determined the child's death was non-accidental in nature. The Initial Assessment completed by the agency found a preponderance of evidence to substantiate maltreatment of physical abuse to the child by the mother's cousin. The family was referred to community services, and the agency closed the case upon completion of the Initial Assessment.

Yes No Criminal investigation pending or completed?

Yes No Criminal charges filed? If yes, against whom? The mother's cousin

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 child resided with her father and her step-mother. The child had infrequent contact with her mother. The child's 17-year-old half-sibling and 12-year-old half-sibling were residing in a non-relative foster home under an Order for Protection or Services.

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 child was under an in-home Child in Need of Protection or Services Order related to the June 12, 2024 CPS Report. The last contact by the agency was with the child on December 18, 2024.

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 June 12, 2024, the agency screened in a CPS Report alleging neglect to the child's now 12-year-old and 17-year-old half-siblings by the mother and physical abuse to the child's now 12-year-old half-sibling by the mother. An assessment was completed by the agency, and the allegations of neglect and physical abuse were unsubstantiated. Petitions for Protection or Services were filed on August 12, 2024, and the case remained open to provide ongoing case management services.

On September 28, 2023, the agency screened-in a CPS Report alleging neglect to the child and the child's now 12-year-old half-sibling. An assessment was completed by the agency, and the allegations of neglect were unsubstantiated. The case was closed upon completion of the Initial Assessment.

On April 4, 2023, the agency screened-in a CPS Report alleging neglect to the child and the child's now 12-year-old and 17-year-old half-siblings by the mother and the mother's significant other and sexual abuse to the child and the child's now 17-year-old half-sibling by the child's maternal grandfather. An assessment was completed by the agency, and the allegations of neglect and sexual abuse were unsubstantiated. The family was referred to community services, and the case was closed upon completion of the Initial Assessment.

On September 21, 2022, the agency screened-in a CPS Report alleging neglect to the child and the child's now 12-year-old half-sibling by the mother's significant other. An assessment was completed by the agency, and the allegations of neglect were unsubstantiated. The case was closed upon completion of the Initial Assessment.

On February 24, 2022, another county screened-in a CPS Report for Alternative Response alleging neglect to the child by the mother. An assessment was completed by the agency with the determination of services not needed. The case was closed upon completion of the Initial Assessment.

On July 22, 2020, another agency screened-in a CPS Report for Alternative Response alleging neglect to the child's now 12-year-old and 17-year-old half-siblings by the mother. An assessment was completed by the agency with the determination of services not needed. The case was closed upon completion of the Initial Assessment.

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 December 2, 2024, the agency screened out a CPS Report.

On June 12, 2024, the agency screened in a CPS Report alleging neglect to the child's now 12-year-old and 17-year-old half-siblings by the mother and physical abuse to the child's now 12-year-old half-sibling by the mother. An assessment was completed by the agency, and the allegations of neglect and physical abuse were unsubstantiated. Petitions for Protection or Services were filed on August 12, 2024, and the case remained open to provide ongoing case management services.

On June 17, 2024, the agency screened out a CPS Report.

On May 17, 2024, the agency screened out a CPS Report.

On December 18, 2023, the agency screened out a services report.

On September 28, 2023, the agency screened-in a CPS Report alleging neglect to the child and the child's now 12-year-old half-sibling. An assessment was completed by the agency, and the allegations of neglect were unsubstantiated. The case was closed upon completion of the Initial Assessment.

On May 20, 2023, the agency screened-out a CPS Report.

On April 4, 2023, the agency screened-in a CPS Report alleging neglect to the child and the child's now 12-year-old and 17-year-old half-siblings by the mother and the mother's significant other and sexual abuse to the child and the child's now 17-year-old half-sibling by the child's maternal grandfather. An assessment was completed by the agency, and the allegations of neglect and sexual abuse were unsubstantiated. The family was referred to community services, and the case was closed upon completion of the Initial Assessment.

On September 21, 2022, the agency screened-in a CPS Report alleging neglect to the child and the child's now 12-year-old half-sibling by the mother's significant other. An assessment was completed by the agency, and the allegations of neglect were unsubstantiated. The case was closed upon completion of the Initial Assessment.

Summary of any investigation involving the child, any member of the child's family and alleged maltreater conducted under ch. 48 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 Medical Examiner's office determined the child's death was non-accidental in nature. The Initial Assessment completed by the agency found a preponderance of evidence to substantiate maltreatment of physical abuse to the child by the mother's cousin. The family was referred to community services, and the agency closed the case upon completion of the Initial Assessment.

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 or other actions that constitute a substantial failure to protect and promote the welfare of a child.

N/A

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 type="checkbox"/> Attempted or successful reunification |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protective plan implemented | <input type="checkbox"/> Referral to services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initial assessment conducted | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation assistance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Safety plan implemented | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collaboration with law enforcement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary physical custody of child | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collaboration with medical professionals |
| <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Case remains open for services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Placement with relatives | <input checked="" 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 IF RECORD OR ON-SITE REVIEW WAS UNDERTAKEN:

Summary of policy or practice changes to address issues identified based on 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. A further practice review has been completed for case #241230DSP-Tremp-1362. No immediate changes to policy or practice were made based on review of the incident.

Recommendations for further changes in policies, practices, rules or statutes needed to address identified issues based on the record or on-site review:

The DSP did not make any recommendations for further changes based on this review process. (Note: The review process for an individual case may not result in a recommendation for policy or practice changes, however, but may impact future recommendations as a result of the review of multiple cases and other related sources of information.)

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