

Child Death, Serious Injury or Egregious Incident Summary Report

Type of Report: 90-Day Final

Case Tracking Number: 100622DSP-PN-30 Agency: Dane County Department of Human Services

Child Information: Age: 21 months Gender: Female Male
Race or Ethnicity: Hispanic
Special needs: unknown prior to incident

Child's Residence: In-home Out-of-home care placement

Date of Incident: 06/22/2010

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

The child was taken to the emergency room of a local hospital by a relative (who was at that time thought to be the child's parent) after suffering an apparent seizure. The caregiver reported that the child had fallen down the stairs more than a week earlier, but sustained no injury other than a small bruise on the child's head. Subsequent medical testing indicated that the child received injuries that were likely the result of being shaken and could not have been the result of the fall as described by the caregivers. Medical tests revealed two subdural hematomas and retinal hemorrhaging in both eyes. The child was admitted to the hospital for treatment.

Findings by agency, including material circumstances leading to incident:

The agency substantiated physical abuse to the child by an unknown maltreater. The child was living with a married couple who are related to the child for several weeks prior to being taken to the hospital. In addition to reporting that the child had fallen down the stairs, the child's caregivers reported that the child had fallen off a bed a few days prior to her hospitalization, but afterward seemed fine. The child was also taken to the hospital emergency room by the caregivers due to fever and vomiting four days prior to admission to the hospital. The child was diagnosed with a virus and went home after receiving treatment.

The treating physician reported that the timeframe of the child's seizure and injuries did not match the family's report of the method of injury, as the injuries would have occurred 24-48 hours prior to the child's arrival at the hospital. Doctors concluded that the child's injuries were non-accidental and likely the result of being shaken. Additionally, at the time of admission to the hospital the child was found to be in the second percentile in weight and sixty-fifth percentile in height, which was concerning for failure to thrive.

Additional information for children in home:

Description of the child's family:

The child's biological mother and father both reside outside the State of Wisconsin. The child was living with a married couple who are related to the child. The couple initially presented themselves at the hospital as the child's parents, but later divulged their true relationship. The child's relatives also have two young children of their own who resided in the home.

Yes No **Statement of Services:** Were services under ch. 48 or ch. 938 being provided to the child, 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:

N/A

Summary of all involvement in services under ch. 48 or ch. 938 by child's parents or alleged maltreater in the previous five years:

There was no involvement in the State of Wisconsin with the child, child's parents, or relative caregivers and their children prior to the reported incident; however, the mother's rights to three older children were terminated in another state.

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 or alleged maltreater:

None

Summary of any investigation conducted under ch. 48 or ch. 938 and any services provided to the family since the date of the incident:

The agency substantiated physical abuse by an unknown caregiver. The child received treatment in the hospital and upon discharge was placed in a foster home licensed by the county agency. She continues to receive medical treatment, including physical therapy, to address her injuries. She was assessed for developmental needs and found not to need any follow-up services. The agency requested a home study on the mother through the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children.

During questioning by the agency and police, one caregiver expressed concern over the spouse's rough treatment of the child during the week prior to the hospitalization. Before the spouse could be questioned, the spouse left the area with the couple's two children. The whereabouts of the spouse and children are unknown since that time. The agency and police have been unable to locate them, and it is suspected that they have left the country.

Additional information for children 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 actions taken by agency in response to the incident:**

The agency conducted an initial assessment and the child was found to be in need of protection or services. The agency collaborated with law enforcement in the investigation and in attempting to locate the relative caregiver and children. Physical abuse to the child by an unknown maltreater was substantiated. The child was determined to be unsafe and was placed in foster care upon her discharge from the hospital, where she remains. The agency is ensuring that the child continues to receive follow-up medical care to address issues resulting from her injuries. The child received an evaluation from Birth to 3 and did not qualify for further services from that program. The agency has inquired about possible relatives for placement of the child and has also requested a home study of the mother through the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children. The agency has been in contact with the child's father, who resides outside the United States, and are attempting to determine how to request a home study for the father. The family will continue to receive ongoing case management services from the agency.

***Summary of policy or practice changes to address identified issues:**

None

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

None

Statement of Completion:

Yes No This 90-day summary report completes the Division of Safety and Permanence (DSP) review of this case.

* If a full report including agency actions, changes in policies or practices and recommendations for further changes was not completed within 90 days, the DSP will complete and submit the final summary report within 6 months.

This final summary report completes the DSP review of this case.