

## Child Death, Serious Injury or Egregious Incident Summary Report

Type of Report:  90-Day  Final

Case Tracking Number: 100714DSP-PN-34 Agency: Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare

Child Information: Age: 10 months Gender:  Female  Male  
Race or Ethnicity: African American  
Special needs: None

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

Date of Incident: 7/14/10

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

The baby was pronounced dead at her home at 1:45 a.m. on July 14, 2010. Reportedly, at 11:30 p.m. the previous night the baby's father fed her and placed her on the couch with her 3-year-old sibling. When the father later checked on the children, he found the baby unresponsive. The autopsy found that the baby had a fresh skull fracture to the back of her head, but this was not the cause of the child's death. The cause of death is unknown.

### Findings by agency, including material circumstances leading to incident:

The agency substantiated physical abuse to the infant by an unknown maltreater. The unexplained injury to the baby's head resulted in the substantiation finding, but the medical examiner determined that this was not the cause of death. The family reports that there was nothing unusual about the child's behavior in the days prior to her death. The baby previously had fallen from the sofa and the bed, but not within the past week. Reportedly, the parents did not know about the injury until the autopsy. The agency determined the surviving child to be unsafe, and the family is receiving services from the agency. There are no criminal charges in connection with the child's injury or death at this time.

### Additional information for children in home:

#### Description of the child's family:

The child lived with her mother, father and half-sibling.

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:

Both of the child's parents' families received child protective services when they were minors.

#### 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:

In 2006 and 2007, two reports (i.e., one report each year) on the child's mother's family when she was a minor were screened in and investigated. The allegations were unsubstantiated, the family was given information about services and the case was closed each time.

In 2003-2005, the child's father's family received services when he as a minor. One CPS Report was screened in and investigated in 2003. The report was unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

In 2005, two CPS Reports were screened in and investigated. One report was unsubstantiated, and the children were determined to be unsafe. The case was opened, and the family received services from the agency. The second report was substantiated for one child in the family, but the allegations of neglect on the other children were unsubstantiated. The case was closed and the family was referred to community services. Also in 2005, the agency screened in two reports to provide child welfare, rather than child protective, services to the family.

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Division of Safety and Permanence

**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 to the baby by an unknown maltreater. The surviving child was determined unsafe. The cause of death and the cause of the injury to the baby's head are unknown. The child remains at home with her parents, and the family is cooperating with services provided by the agency.

**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 screened in and investigated the report on the child's death. The agency substantiated physical abuse, but the injury to the baby's head was not the cause of death. The surviving sibling received a thorough medical exam and remains in her parents' care. As part of the initial assessment the agency collaborated with law enforcement, gathered medical information and interviewed sources close the family. The family was assessed, and the surviving child was found to be unsafe, and the family is cooperating with intensive in-home services.

**\*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.