

## 90-Day Summary Report for Child Death, Serious Injury or Egregious Incident

Case Tracking Number: 110306DSP-Dane-87 Agency: Dane County Dept. of Human Services

Child Information: Age: 9 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: 3/6/11

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

The infant's mother brought her to the emergency room with presenting first and second degree burns to the left buttock, blistering burns between her shoulder blades, burns on the left side of her head, right heel and calf. The mother reported that she believed the child was burned by a heat register, which was positioned next to the mattress and bed frame where the child slept with her mother. The attending physician stated that the child's injuries were consistent with the mother's description of events and not likely the result of maltreatment.

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

The agency unsubstantiated neglect to the child. The mother explained that she and the infant often slept together on a mattress and bed frame. In the family home, the heat registers are on the floor, and the mother had turned up the heat to 75-80 degrees to achieve adequate warmth in the room. Reportedly, the infant rolled to the edge of the bed by the heat register. She became wedged between the bed frame and mattress in direct contact with the register. A temperature reading was conducted on the heat register to assist in determining the length of time needed to incur this type of injury. A burn expert was consulted and concurred that the infant's injuries and the explanation were plausible for accidental injury. It was determined that this type of burn could have occurred in one second or less. No other concerns about the family were noted during the initial assessment. No criminal charges were filed in connection with the child's injuries.

### Additional information for children in home:

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

The infant lives with her mother.

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 as adults under ch. 48 or ch. 938 by child's parents or alleged maltreater in the previous five years:**

None

**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 at the age of 18 years or older:**

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 screened in the report of serious injury to the infant, collaborating with law enforcement during the investigation. Due to some conflicting opinions from the doctors, the agency decided that a temperature read on the heater was needed. Law enforcement conducted a thermal heat reading on the heater. When the temperature was set at 75 degrees, the contact temperature of the heater climbed to 152 degrees. The mother was counseled on co-sleeping and alterations to the bedroom to assure the heating unit was not exposed. The child was determined safe in the care of her

mother.

**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 of burns to the infant and alleged neglect by the mother. Maltreatment was unsubstantiated, and the child was determined safe in her mother's care. The agency collaborated with law enforcement and medical professionals during the initial assessment. Services were offered to the mother but were declined. The agency closed the case following the initial assessment.

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

The initial assessment was not completed and approved in the eWiSACWIS within the required timeframe. The agency identified this issue prior to this review and continues to work with staff regarding timely documentation of the assessment into the state automated system.

**\*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.