

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

Case Tracking Number: 110325DSP-Winn-91 Agency: Winnebago County Dept. of Human Services

Child Information: Age: 2 years Gender: Female Male
Race or Ethnicity: Caucasian
Special needs: None

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

Date of Incident: 3/25/11

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

On March 25, 2011, law enforcement responded to the child's home in response to a report of alleged child abuse. The police officer observed the child and believed the child's injuries were serious. The child was taken to the local hospital's emergency room, where he was found to have third degree burns to the genital area and inner thighs. The child also presented with numerous patterns of bruising all over his body. He was transferred to Children's Hospital in Milwaukee. The mother's boyfriend primarily cared for the child while his mother worked. The boyfriend gave conflicting stories about how the child was burned. Both the mother and boyfriend stated that the genital area injury was caused by the child zipping his scrotum into the zipper of his pants. Medical opinion is that the burns are not accidental and were likely inflicted by forced immersion of the area or direct exposure to a very high heat. The mother and boyfriend did not seek medical care for the child until the police intervened. The boyfriend has been criminally charged with Child Abuse - Reckless Causation of Great Harm, and the child's mother is charged with Neglecting a Child - Consequence is Bodily Harm.

Findings by agency, including material circumstances leading to incident:

The agency substantiated physical abuse to the child by the mother's boyfriend and neglect to the child by his mother. The boyfriend primarily cared for the child while the mother worked. The child received severe burns and extensive bruising while in the care of his mother and her boyfriend. They disregarded advice from a relative to seek medical care for the child. In February 2011 the child was treated for a broken leg, and the leg was casted. A follow-up appointment was scheduled for March 25, but on March 24 the boyfriend removed the cast at home, stating the the child had thrown up on it. The mother and boyfriend did not take the child to the medical appointment. It was discovered late on March 25 that the child had extensive, observable injuries including the severe burns that probably occurred a few days earlier. The mother claimed that she was treating the child's injuries at home using ointment as directed by a nurse over the telephone. The agency contacted the medical service, and the office claimed that they had no record of any contact from this family about the child. The child was determined unsafe in the care of his mother and her boyfriend.

Additional information for children in home:

Description of the child's family:

The child lived with his mother and her boyfriend.

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

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

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 investigated the report of injuries to the child, substantiating physical abuse by the boyfriend and neglect by the mother. The child was determined unsafe in the care of these adults, taken into temporary physical custody and placed with a relative. The child's broken leg in February occurred while he was in the care of the boyfriend. According to the mother, the doctor indicated it was possible that the injury occurred while the child was playing, and no report was made to CPS by the doctor. The boyfriend has no contact with the child, and the mother's contact with the child is supervised. The agency continues to provide services to the mother, child and relatives caring for him.

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 alleged maltreatment to the child. Neglect by the mother and physical abuse by the boyfriend were substantiated. The child was determined unsafe in their care. The agency collaborated with law enforcement and medical professionals during the initial assessment. The child was removed from his mother's care and placed with a relative. The mother's visits with the child are supervised.

***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.