

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

Case Tracking Number: 110521DSP-Dane-111 Agency: Dane County Dept. of Human Services

Child Information: Age: 3 years Gender:  Female  Male  
Race or Ethnicity: Hispanic  
Special needs: None

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

Date of Incident: 5/21/11

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

The child was taken to the hospital by his caregiver and her husband due to serious burns on his legs. Initially, the caregiver described herself as the child's mother and explained that the child pulled a pot of boiling water onto himself. She then later explained that she was boiling the water for a bath, and the child fell into the water while she was in a different room. Subsequently, the caregiver and others present in the home at this time admitted that the burns did not happen in the kitchen, but instead occurred in the bathtub. The child had 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burns over the lower half of his body, left arm, left side of face and a small area on his chest, requiring that he was hospitalized for 7 weeks. Children's Hospital in Madison diagnosed the injuries as forced immersion burns consistent with child abuse. The caregiver was criminally charged with Child Abuse - Intentional Causion of Great Bodily Harm.

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

The agency substantiated physical abuse to the child by the caregiver. The injured child was determined safe in the care of his mother. The caregiver's own children were determined unsafe in her care, but safe in the care of their father. The mother and her child lived with the caregiver, her husband and their children. She explained that she was close with the caregiver, considering her an "aunt." The caregiver cared for the injured child for approximately 2 years, and the mother trusted her, never suspecting that she would hurt the child. The medical opinion is that the child was forced feet first into the hot water. The adult family members at first corroborated the caregiver's story about a pot of boiling water in the kitchen. Eventually, the same family members admitted the incident occurred in the bathtub, insisting that it was an accident. The caregiver explained that at the hospital, she lied about being the child's mother because she believed he could not receive medical treatment without his mother present.

### Additional information for children in home:

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

The mother and child lived in the basement of the caregiver's home. The caregiver, the caregiver's husband and their children resided upstairs in the family's 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 as adults under ch. 48 or ch. 938 by child's parents or alleged maltreater in the previous five years:

On October 22, 2010 the agency screened in and investigated a report alleging neglect of the child. Neglect was unsubstantiated, and the child was determined safe. The initial assessment was completed, and no additional services were provided. Last contact with the mother and child occurred during a home visit on October 28, 2010.

#### 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:

No other action was taken or services provided prior to October 2010, as noted above.

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

As a result of this incident, the agency screened in and investigated two CPS Reports; i.e., the report of burns to the injured child and a report of threatened harm to the caregiver's children. Physical abuse to the child by the caregiver was substantiated, and he was determined safe in the care of his mother. The child was discharged from the hospital and continues to receive services related to recovery from his injuries. The child and his mother relocated to another residence following the incident. Physical abuse/threatened abuse or neglect to the caregiver's children was unsubstantiated. The caregiver's children were determined unsafe in her care and safe in the care of their father. The caregiver moved to a separate residence, and all contact between the caregiver and her children is supervised. Both families have been referred to community services. The agency offered voluntary services to the mother and referred the caregiver's case to Ongoing Services case management.

In August 2011, the agency screened in a CPS Report alleging maltreatment of the injured child. The allegation is unsubstantiated and the agency determined the child safe in his mother's care.

**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 assessed two CPS Reports alleging concerns of physical abuse to the injured child and the safety of the caregiver's children living in the same home. Physical abuse to the injured child by the caregiver was substantiated, and the child was determined safe in his mother's care. Physical abuse/threatened abuse or neglect to the caregiver's children was unsubstantiated, and the children were determined safe in their father's care. The agency implemented a safety plan requiring supervised contact between the caregiver and her children. Agency workers assisted the families with needed services. The mother was offered voluntary services, and the caregiver's family was referred to Ongoing Services case management. The agency conducted an internal review of the case for quality assurance, looking at current and past practice.

**\*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.