

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

Case Tracking Number: 110711DSP-Polk-126 Agency: Polk County Human Services Dept.

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: 7/11/11

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

The child was taken by ambulance to the hospital after her mother and boyfriend found her underneath a dresser that she had pulled over onto herself. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation was administered, but it is believed the child was dead for almost an hour when she was found. The cause of death was mechanical asphyxiation due to the falling dresser crushing her chest. The parents were sleeping, and the child was instructed to bang on the couple's bedroom wall if she needed anything. The mother has been criminally charged with Neglecting A Child (Consequence is Death.)

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

The agency substantiated neglect to the child by the mother and the mother's boyfriend. The couple worked overnight shifts and had child care while at work. They slept during the day, from approximately 10-11 a.m. until 5-5:30 p.m., getting up around 12-1:00 PM to check on the child. Approximately one week earlier, the child began climbing out of her crib. The couple allowed the child to play unsupervised while they slept, expecting her to alert them about her needs.

### Additional information for children in home:

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

The child lived with her mother and her mother's 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:

See following section.

#### 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:

In 2005, while the boyfriend was living with his girlfriend (i.e., not the mother in the current incident) and their two children, the agency screened in a report of alleged neglect. The children were removed from their parents' care. Neglect to one of the children by the mother was substantiated. The parents participated in services, and the children were reunified in 2007.

On 9/29/11, the agency screened in a report of alleged maltreatment to the boyfriend's two children living with their mother. Maltreatment was unsubstantiated. Services were offered but declined, and the case was closed.

#### 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 neglect to the child by her mother and the mother's boyfriend. Although there were no other children in the home, the mother was pregnant at the time of the incident, and the couple agreed to participate in voluntary services with the agency following the child's death. The agency arranged for in-home supervision of the couple's interactions with their new baby who was born in October 2011. The case remains open for Ongoing Services case

management.

**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 the child's death, substantiating neglect by the mother and her boyfriend. The couple agreed to voluntary services, and the agency referred them to community services in anticipation of the birth of their child. The agency developed plans with the parents that involve supervision of their interactions with the new baby by relatives and home visits from agency workers. The case remains open for Ongoing Services.

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

The agency participated in a review of the child's death by the local child death review team. Prevention options for parents working different shifts and child care assistance were identified as potential needs and discussed.

**\*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.