

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

Case Tracking Number: 110723DSP-StCr-132 Agency: St. Croix County Dept. of Health & Human Services

Child Information: Age: 14 years Gender:  Female  Male  
Race or Ethnicity: Caucasian  
Special needs: None

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

Date of Incident: 7/23/11

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

Law enforcement responded to a report of an infant death and found that the 14-year-old sibling was sleeping on bare concrete in the basement of her parent's home. The child reported that she had to earn the right to have a blanket, pillow, sleep in her bed, eat a meal, clean clothes, and various other basic necessities. She also reported on occasion being locked out of the house with restricted access to the garage and on another occasion staying in a tent in the yard for more than a week with little to no access to the house. The parents deny the child's reports, explaining that the child was "choosing" these punishments because she wouldn't cooperate with their rules. The infant's death was determined accidental as a result of the parent rolling onto the baby while sleeping together. Both parents were criminally charged with Abandonment of a Child and Child Neglect. The father plead guilty to the Child Neglect charge, and the abandonment charge was dismissed. The mother's criminal case is pending.

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

Neglect to the child by her parents was substantiated, and she was determined unsafe in their care. A half-sibling that had visits with the child and mother in their home was determined safe in the mother's care, but the half-sibling's father sought and obtained full custody of his child following the incident. Throughout the initial assessment and law enforcement investigation, the parents denied that the child was being maltreated, describing their actions as "severe punishment" that was the result of the child's bad choices. Reportedly, the child's access to food, shelter, bedding, eyeglasses, bathroom, hygiene products, visits with relatives, etc. were all used as punishments. Much of the information provided by the child was confirmed by relatives. The child has a half-sibling that had visits with the mother in the home, but did not receive similar parenting or discipline. It appears that the child was targeted by the parents, especially by the mother, who had a history of substantiated physical abuse to her when she was a baby.

### Additional information for children in home:

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

The child lived with her mother, father and an infant sibling until the baby's death in July. A half-sibling had regular visits with the mother in the child's family 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:**

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:**

In 1998, Chippewa County Dept. of Human Services investigated an allegation of physical abuse to the child as an infant by her mother. Physical Abuse was substantiated, and the child was removed from her parents' care. The child's parents divorced, and she was reunified with her father. After several years she reunified with her mother, when her parents

remarried.

**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 parents, and determined her unsafe in their care. A half-sibling was determined safe, but the child's father took action to obtain full custody of the child following this incident. The child was removed from her parents' care and placed with relatives. Visits between the child and her parents were supervised, until the parents were criminally charged with neglect and a no contact order was issued. The child continues to have visits with her half-sibling. The child and parents were referred to services. Guardianship of the child is being pursued by the relatives. 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, investigated and substantiated the allegation of neglect to the child by her parents. A protective plan was implemented and the child was taken into custody and placed with relatives. She was determined unsafe in her parents' care. The agency requested assistance from the Dane Co. Dept. of Human Services with assessing the safety of child's half-sibling who resides in that county. Visits between the child and her parents were supervised until a no contact order was issued. Agency staff partnered with law enforcement during the initial assessment. The child was connected to needed services, and the parents were referred to services. The agency is assisting the relatives with assuming guardianship of the child. The case remains open for Ongoing 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.