

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

**Case Tracking**

**Number:** 110917DSP-Winn-148      **Agency:** Winnebago County Dept. of Human Services

**Child**

**Information:**      Age: 2 months      Gender:  Female     Male  
Race or  
Ethnicity:      Caucasian  
Special needs: None

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

**Date of**

**Incident:**      9/17/12

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

The child was taken to the hospital by her parents after the mother noticed small red dots near the corner of her left eye, and the father pointed out swelling on the back of the child's skull. The first medical examination of the child found she had a skull fracture, several fractured ribs, and fractures of her left tibia and right femur. The skull fracture was new and many of the other fractures were in various stages of healing. Additional medical examination found a total of 23 individual bone fractures in various stages of healing. The father initially offered explanations that suggested accidental injuries. He later confessed that had been squeezing the baby using up to 90% of his full strength over a period of four to six weeks. He also admitted that on 9/17 he slammed the child's head on the changing table due to being frustrated with her fussiness. The father has been criminally charged with 3 counts of Child Abuse – Intentional Causion of Bodily Harm and 2nd Degree Recklessly Endangering Safety.

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

Physical abuse to the child by the father was substantiated. The child was determined safe in the care of her mother. The father assumed full-time care of the infant on days when his wife worked and he did not. He reported becoming frustrated when she cried and he was unable to console her. He also admitted to taking out his frustration for other aspects of his life on his daughter. He began squeezing her, and the over time the force of the squeezing escalated. He reported hearing "breaking or grinding" numerous times while squeezing her. The mother noticed that the child was fussier than usual. The child regularly received routine medical care, but the injuries were not discovered until the child's skull was fractured.

**Additional information for children in home:**

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

The child lived with her mother and father.

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 substantiated physical abuse to the child by her father. The child was determined safe in the care of her mother. The child was taken into temporary physical custody and placed at the hospital. Upon discharge from the hospital, she was placed at home with her mother. The father is not allowed to have unsupervised contact with the child, and he resides with relatives at a separate residence. The injuries to the child occurred while in the sole care of her father, who became extremely frustrated with her crying and inability to console her. Although the child was often seen by relatives and received routine medical care for her age, the father did not share with anyone that he was harming her, and her injuries remained undetected until her skull was fractured. The father has demonstrated great guilt and remorse over his actions, and voluntarily sought self-care. The family is receiving Ongoing Services case management from the agency.

**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 injuries to the infant. Physical abuse by the father was substantiated. The child was assessed to be safe in her mother's care. Agency staff collaborated with law enforcement and medical professionals during the initial assessment. The child was taken into custody and placed at the hospital. Upon discharge from the hospital, she was placed with her mother in their home. The agency supervises all contact between the father and infant and has assisted the family with needed services. 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.