

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

Reports submitted to the Division of Safety and Permanence (DSP) that do not include all of the required information will be returned to the agency for proper completion. Do not identify individuals by name when completing this report. Individuals may be referenced by relationship or position; e.g., mother, father, child, sibling, physician, detective, etc.

**Case Tracking Number:** 120618DSP-Clark-230      **Agency:** Clark County Department of Social Services

**Child Information** (at time of incident)

Age: 17 years      Gender:  Female    Male

Race or Ethnicity: Caucasian

Special Needs: Cognitive Disorder

Age: 17 years      Gender:  Female    Male

Race or Ethnicity: Caucasian

Special Needs: None

**Date of Incident:** 6/18/12

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

On 6/29/12, the agency received a request from a neighboring county to complete an Independent Investigation into allegations of physical abuse and neglect by a foster parent to two 17-year-old foster children. One of the foster children sustained multiple bruises on her arms, both legs and shoulders due to being forcefully shoved into a dresser in the child's bedroom at the foster home. The child also disclosed being punched by the foster mother and being allowed to fight with the other foster child without the foster mother intervening. The other foster child disclosed she was punched in the face by the foster mother, kicked, and hit with wooden spoons on a frequent basis. The 17-year-old also disclosed the foster mother used duct tape on her mouth, to tie her feet together, and to tie her hands behind her back. The child was also routinely made to stand facing the corner until late in the evening and copy encyclopedia pages as punishment. The foster parent would also withhold snacks and meals as punishment and would limit food portions for both foster children. One of the children has experienced a significant weight loss and was hospitalized in 2009 due to insufficient calorie intake. The foster mother would also yell, swear, and require the girls to complete all of the cleaning chores in the home. Law enforcement has referred multiple criminal charges to the District Attorney's office; however, no charges have been filed at this time.

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

The agency screened in and collaborated with law enforcement to assess the allegations to the children. The agency substantiated physical abuse to one 17-year-old foster child and her two-year-old daughter. The agency also substantiated physical abuse and neglect to the other 17-year-old foster child. The foster children, as well as the foster mother's biological son, disclosed multiple incidents of physical or other extreme discipline to the foster children in the home. The foster mother blamed the foster children for lying or starting the incidents to justify her use of physical/extreme discipline. The foster children were immediately removed from the home at the time of the report and will not return to this placement.

- Yes    No   Criminal investigation pending or completed?  
 Yes    No   Criminal charges filed? If yes, against whom?

**Child's residence at the time of incident:**    In-home    Out-of-home care placement

Complete the appropriate following section (A. or B. based on the child's residence at the time of the incident).

**A. Children residing at home at the time of the incident:**

**Description of the child's family** (includes household members, noncustodial parent and other children that have visitation with the child and / or in the child's family home):

Yes    No   **Statement of Services:** Were services under ch. 48 or ch. 938 being provided to the child, any member of the child's 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:

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: (Does not include the current incident.)

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. (Does not include the current incident.)

(Note: Screened out reports listed in this section may include only the date of the report, screening decision, and if a referral to services occurred at Access. Reports that do not constitute a reasonable suspicion of maltreatment or a reason to believe that the child is threatened with harm are not required to be screened in for an initial assessment, and no further action is required by the agency.)

Summary of any investigation involving the child, any member of the child's family and alleged maltreater conducted under ch. 48 or ch. 938 and any services provided to the child and child's family since the date of the incident:

B. Children residing in out-of-home (OHC) placement at time of incident:

Description of the OHC placement and basis for decision to place child there:

The foster home consists of a single foster mother and her 11-year-old biological son. The foster mother also has three adult children who no longer live in the home. The foster mother has been a licensed foster care provider since December 2007. The placing agency determined the foster mother had the capacity and skills to meet the needs of the foster children, with the help of community and agency services. One of the children was placed in this home in March 2008. The other child, along with her own young daughter, was placed in the home in October 2011.

Description of all other persons residing in the OHC placement home:

The foster mother lives in the home with her 11-year-old biological son. The foster mother's boyfriend would frequently spend time in the home; however, he does not reside full-time in the home. The foster mother had placement of two 17-year-old foster children and the two-year-old daughter of one of the foster children. The three foster children were immediately removed at the time the allegations were reported and will not return to this placement. The foster mother also has three adult children who live outside the 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.

The foster mother has been a licensed foster care provider since December 2007. Her licensed was renewed as a Level 2 foster home in December 2011 and is currently active; however, the revocation process will start if the foster mother does not appeal the substantiation decisions or if the substantiation decisions are upheld upon appeal. Licensing concerns were noted in 2009 for the licensing agency's foster care coordinator to address; however, it is unclear how or if these concerns had been addressed. The investigating agency has also filed a letter with the licensing agency with a list of potential foster care violations which need to be addressed at this time.

Summary of any actions taken by agency in response to the incident: (Check all that apply.)

- Screening of Access report
- Protective plan implemented
- Initial assessment conducted
- Safety plan implemented
- Temporary physical custody of child
- Petitioned for court order / CHIPS (child in need of protection or services)
- Placement into foster home
- Placement with relatives
- Ongoing Services case management
- Attempted or successful reunification
- Referral to services
- Transportation assistance
- Collaboration with law enforcement
- Collaboration with medical professionals
- Supervised visitation
- Case remains open for services
- Case closed by agency
- Initiated efforts to address or enhance community collaboration on CA/N cases
- Other (describe):

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Summary of policy or practice changes to address issues identified during the review of the incident:

Under the Child Welfare Disclosure Act (Section 48.981(7)(cr), Stats.), the DSP completes a 90-day review of the agency's

practice in each case reported under the Act. In accordance with the DCF memo Series 2010-13, dated December 7, 2010 pertaining to the Child Welfare Case Review Protocol, the DSP will complete a full records review in case #120618DSP-Clark-230.

**Recommendations for further changes in policies, practices, rules or statutes needed to address identified issues:**

None

Yes  No  Not Applicable This 90-day summary report completes the Division of Safety and Permanence (DSP) review of this case.

If the case review was not completed within 90 days, the DSP will complete and submit the final summary report within 6 months.

The agency must submit an electronic copy of the completed 90-Day Summary Report to [Tara.Muender@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Tara.Muender@wisconsin.gov)