

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: 130322DSP-Sauk-305 **Agency:** Sauk County Department of Human Services

Child Information (at time of incident)

Age: 5 months Gender: Female Male

Race or Ethnicity: Caucasian

Special Needs: None

Date of Incident: March 21, 2013

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

On March 22, 2013, the agency received a report regarding a five-month-old infant brought to the local emergency room by his mother and grandmother. No explanation was given by the mother or grandmother to explain the bruising or injuries observed on his forehead, left eye, and side of his head; right arm and sternal area of his chest. The mother stated the infant "was normal when put to bed the previous night and woke looking like this at 8:30." The mother stated she was with the infant all day on March 21, 2013. There is a small dog in the household but the dog is kenneled at night and not allowed in the infant's room. The maternal grandparents, paternal grandparents and the infant's parents were the only reported caregivers for the infant. The report notes the infant had a prior head injury on January 29, 2013, when he was brought to the emergency room by his father. At that time, the father stated he was moving the infant from the couch to the baby swing with a horizontal twisting motion. He said he did not estimate the position of the swing and crashed the infant's head into the metal pole of the swing.

The medical assessment discovered the infant sustained a skull fracture to the left parietal bone with significant scalp swelling and edema tracking into the left side of his face. In addition, the infant had a healing, fractured femur, and a previously undiagnosed skull fracture. The infant was transported from the emergency room to a large hospital for further analysis. Medical personnel determined the injuries to the infant were non-accidental in nature. Law enforcement's criminal investigation resulted in the father being criminally charged with two counts of Child Abuse-Intentionally Cause Harm and two counts of Child Abuse-Recklessly Cause Harm. A criminal charge is merely an allegation and a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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

The agency collaborated with law enforcement and medical personnel to complete the assessment. The Initial Assessment completed by the agency found a preponderance of the evidence to substantiate physical abuse to the infant by the father. Evidence supported that both skull fractures were caused by the father. The agency concluded the head injury sustained in January 2013 was not accidental based on the father's explanation of the mechanism of injury. Although no known cause of the injury to the infant's leg existed, the timeframe for the injury likely occurred on February 10, 2013. The father cared for the infant that morning. Upon the father dropping the infant off at the maternal grandparents' home, they noted the infant was not acting normally. The infant was noticeably fussy and not himself on February 11, 2013; so, the mother contacted medical staff, reporting concerns. On February 13, 2013, the mother contacted the clinic again to request the infant be seen. She stated the infant was not himself, was sleeping a lot, and was observed to have a sore on his chin and bruising. The infant was seen at the clinic on February 15, 2013. He was still abnormally fussy and not wanting to be picked up, although no visual bruising was noted. Blood work was completed at the clinic to assess for a bleeding disorder or illness. The infant was seen again at the clinic on February 25, 2013 for bruises to his chest; no bruises were noted to his back at that time.

Upon interview by law enforcement and the agency, the father admitted to punching the infant in the head on the night of March 21, 2013, and "pushing his thumbs into the child's chest to stop him from crying/breathing." The father declined further interviews with the agency. The father has no contact with the infant because of bond conditions. The mother left the family's home and moved, with the infant, to reside with relatives. The agency determined the infant was safe with the mother who demonstrates capacity to protect.

Yes No Criminal investigation pending or completed?
 Yes No Criminal charges filed? If yes, against whom? The father.

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):

The child resided in the home of his parents. The child has no siblings.

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:

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: (Does not include the current incident.)

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. (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.)

None

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:

The agency screened in and assessed the allegation of physical abuse to the infant. The agency substantiated physical abuse of the infant by the father who was also criminally charged. The father has criminal bond conditions including no contact with the child. The mother left the family's home and moved with the infant to reside with relatives. The agency determined in their assessment the infant was safe with the mother who demonstrates capacity to protect. The infant received follow-up medical evaluation with no further medical needs identified. The father did not make himself available for additional contact with the agency so further referrals to services could not be made. No other services were determined to be needed for the child and family and the child was determined to be safe in the mother's care so the agency closed the case.

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:

N/A

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

N/A

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.

N/A

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

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

FOR DSP COMPLETION ONLY:

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. The DSP did not identify practice issues during the review of the incident.

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 RobertB.Williams@wisconsin.gov