

Report Identification Number: NY-16-022 Prepared by: New York City Regional Office

Issue Date: 9/2/2016

This	s report, prepared pursuant to section 20(5) of the Social Services Law (SSL), concerns:
X	A report made to the New York Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment (SCR) involving the death of a child.
	The death of a child for whom child protective services has an open case.
	The death of a child whose care and custody or custody and guardianship has been transferred to an authorized agency.
	The death of a child for whom the local department of social services has an open preventive service case.

The Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) is mandated by section 20 of the SSL to investigate or cause for the investigation of the cause and circumstances surrounding the death, review such investigation, and prepare and issue a fatality report in regard to the categories of deaths noted above involving a child, except where a local or regional fatality review team issues a report, as authorized by law.

Such report must include: the cause of death; the identification of child protective or other services provided or actions taken regard to such child and child's family; any extraordinary or pertinent information concerning the circumstances of the child's death; whether the child or the child's family received assistance, care or services from the social services district prior to the child's death; any action or further investigation undertaken by OCFS or the social services district since the child's death; and as appropriate, recommendations for local or state administrative or policy changes.

This report contains no information that would identify the deceased child, his or her siblings, the parent, parents, or other persons legally responsible for the child, and any members of the deceased child's household.

By statute, this report will be forwarded to the social services district, chief county executive officer, chairperson of the local legislative body of the county where the child died and the social services district that had legal custody of the child, if different. Notice of the issuance of this report will be sent to the Speaker of the Assembly and the Temporary President of the State of New York.

This report may <u>only</u> be disclosed to the public by OCFS pursuant to section 20(5) of the SSL. It may be released by OCFS only after OCFS has determined that such disclosure is not contrary to the best interests of the deceased child's siblings or other children in the household.

OCFS' review included an examination of actions taken by individual caseworkers and supervisors within the social services district and agencies under contract with the social services district. The observations and recommendations contained in this report reflect OCFS' assessment and the performance of these agencies.

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Abbreviations

	Relationships	
BM-Biological Mother	SM-Subject Mother	SC-Subject Child
BF-Biological Father	SF-Subject Father	OC-Other Child
MGM-Maternal Grand Mother	MGF-Maternal Grand Father	FF-Foster Father
PGM-Paternal Grand Mother	PGF-Paternal Grand Father	DCP-Day Care Provider
MGGM-Maternal Great Grand Mother	MGGF-Maternal Great Grand Father	PGGF-Paternal Great Grand Father
PGGM-Paternal Great Grand Mother	MA/MU-Maternal Aunt/Maternal Uncle	PA/PU-Paternal Aunt/Paternal Uncle
	Contacts	
LE-Law Enforcement	CW-Case Worker	CP-Case Planner
DrDoctor	ME-Medical Examiner	EMS-Emergency Medical Services
DC-Day Care	FD-Fire Department	BM-Biological Mother
CPR-Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation		
	Allegations	
FX-Fractures	II-Internal Injuries	L/B/W-Lacerations/Bruises/Welts
S/D/S-Swelling/Dislocation/Sprains	C/T/S-Choking/Twisting/Shaking	B/S-Burns/Scalding
P/Nx-Poisoning/ Noxious Substance	XCP-Excessive Corporal Punishment	PD/AM-Parent's Drug Alcohol Misuse
CD/A-Child's Drug/Alcohol Use	LMC-Lack of Medical Care	EdN-Educational Neglect
EN-Emotional Neglect	SA-Sexual Abuse	M/FTTH-Malnutrition/Failure-to-thrive
IF/C/S-Inadequate Food/ Clothing/ Shelter	IG-Inadequate Guardianship	LS-Lack of Supervision
Ab-Abandonment	OTH/COI-Others	
	Miscellaneous	
IND-Indicated	UNF-Unfounded	SO-Sexual Offender
Sub-Substantiated	Unsub-Unsubstantiated	DV-Domestic Violence
LDSS-Local Department of Social	ACS-Administration for Children's	NYPD-New York City Police
Service	Services	Department
PPRS-Purchased Preventive Rehabilitative Services		

Case Information

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Report Type: Child Deceased **Jurisdiction:** Bronx **Date of Death:** 02/27/2016

Age: 5 month(s) Gender: Male Initial Date OCFS Notified: 02/27/2016

Presenting Information

On 2/27/16, At approximately 6:50 A.M., the BM found the five-month-old, lying face down in his crib. He was transported to Montefiore Hospital where he was pronounced dead at 7:28 A.M. The SC did not have a pre-existing medical condition therefore, the parents were considered alleged subjects of the report.

Executive Summary

ACS responded to the report registered by the SCR dated 2/27/16 regarding the death of the five-month-old male infant. The report alleged DOA/ Fatality and IG of the SC by the parents. ACS obtained information from the first responders and the Dr at Montefiore Hospital where the death of the SC was confirmed.

The BM reported that on 2/27/16, at 1:00 AM, she fed the twins and placed them into their bouncers. An hour later, they fell asleep and she placed them both on their backs, in one crib. The BM explained the twins usually slept alone in separate cribs; however, she opted to place them together in one crib away from the window because of a neighboring building that had partially collapsed and she did not want the SC to sleep in his own crib which was near a window. At 6:50 AM, the BM heard crying and she observed the five-month-old surviving twin on his back crying and the SC face down unresponsive. The mother explained the twins had recently begun to roll over. The BM called out to the BF who called 911 and attempted CPR. EMS arrived at the home at 6:53 AM and transported the SC to the hospital.

ACS documented the accounts provided by both parents and the two older surviving siblings were consistent throughout the investigation. The parents told the Specialist the twins had no medical issues and had been examined on 1/30/16 and 2/25/16. The Dr reported they were in good health and had reached their developmental milestones.

The fourteen and eight-year-old surviving siblings reported they were awakened by the BM's screams at the time of the discovery. They are currently receiving counseling.

On 2/27/16, LE reported the home was very clean; they found no criminality and closed the LE case. The ME reported the SC was well nourished with no indications of abuse or neglect.

On 4/28/16, ACS unsubstantiated the allegations of the report.

Findings Related to the CPS Investigation of the Fatality

Safety Assessment:

- Was sufficient information gathered to make the decision recorded on the:
 - Approved Initial Safety Assessment?

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Yes



 Safety assessment due 	Yes	
 Was the safety decision on the appropriate? 	Yes	
Determination:		
8	thered to make determination(s) for all ers identified in the course of the	Yes, sufficient information was gathered to determine all allegations.
 Was the determination made appropriate? 	by the district to unfound or indicate	Yes
Explain: ACS case documentation reflected the	case circumstances.	
Was the decision to close the case ap	propriate?	N/A
	e with appropriate and relevant statutor	y Yes
Was there sufficient documentation	of supervisory consultation?	Yes, the case record has detail of the consultation.
Explain: The family is engaged in PPRS under	the auspices of the Leake and Watts agency	·.
	Required Actions Related to the Fatality	
Are there Required Actions related t	o the compliance issue(s)? □Yes ⊠No	
Fatality-F	Related Information and Investigativ	e Activities
	Incident Information	
Date of Death: 02/27/2016	Time of Death: 07:2	28 AM
Time of fatal incident, if different the	an time of death: 06:50 AM	
County where fatality incident occur	red: BRONY	Z
Was 911 or local emergency number		-
Time of Call:	M	
Did EMS to respond to the scene?	Yes	
<u>-</u>	had child used alcohol or drugs? N/A	
Child's activity at time of incident:		
⊠ Sleeping		☐ Driving / Vehicle occupant
☐ Playing	☐ Eating	□ Unknown
☐ Other		
Did child have supervision at time of	incident leading to death? Yes	
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How long before incident was the child last seen by caretaker? 4 Hours Is the caretaker listed in the Household Composition? Yes - Caregiver

At time of incident supervisor was: Not impaired.

Total number of deaths at incident event:

Children ages 0-18: 1

Household Composition at time of Fatality

Household	Relationship	Role	Gender	Age
Deceased Child's Household	Deceased Child	Alleged Victim	Male	5 Month(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Father	Alleged Perpetrator	Male	34 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Mother	Alleged Perpetrator	Female	30 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Sibling	No Role	Male	14 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Sibling	No Role	Female	8 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Sibling	No Role	Male	5 Month(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Sibling	No Role	Male	3 Year(s)

LDSS Response

On 2/27/16, ACS responded to the report registered by the SCR regarding the death of the five-month-old male infant. ACS obtained information from the first responders and the Dr at Montefiore Hospital where the time and death of the SC was confirmed.

On the same date, the Specialist contacted the EMS Liaison and learned that a call was received at 6:49 A.M. to which EMS responded. EMS arrived at the home at 6:53 A.M. and transported the SC to the hospital. EMS technicians reported that when they arrived at the scene, they observed the SC on the floor and the PO attempting to administer CPR.

The Specialist interviewed both parents and the older surviving siblings separately; their accounts were consistent. The BM reported that on 2/26/16, they had a family gathering and everyone was up late. On 2/27/16, at 1:00 A.M., she fed the twins and placed them in their bouncers. An hour later, the they fell asleep and she placed them both on their backs, in one crib. The BM explained that the twins usually slept in their own crib; however, she opted to place them in the crib away from the window because a neighboring building had partially collapsed and she did not want the SC to sleep in his crib which was near a window. At 6:50 A.M., the BM heard crying and when she checked, the surviving twin sibling was on his back crying and the SC was face down, cold with foam around his mouth and he appeared blue in color. She called the BF who summoned 911 while the BF performed CPR as instructed by the 911 operator.

The parents stated the twins were born at 34 weeks of gestation and stayed ten days in the NICU. They were discharged with no medical issues. On 1/30/16 and 2/25/16, the twins were examined by two physicians who reported they were in good health and had reached their developmental milestones. The fourteen and eight-year-old surviving siblings reported they were awakened by the BM's screams at the time of the discovery. The surviving siblings are receiving services

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following the fatality.

On 2/27/16, LE reported the home was very clean; they found no criminality; later, they had no additional information. Throughout the investigation, the ME reported the SC was healthy, well-cared for and well nourished. The ME added that the SC had no marks, bruises, injuries or fractures that would indicate any abuse or neglect. The ME's autopsy report is pending.

On 4/28/16, ACS unsubstantiated the DOA/Fatality and IG allegations of the SC by the parents and the case remained open for services.

Official Manner and Cause of Death

Official Manner: Pending

Primary Cause of Death: Unknown

Person Declaring Official Manner and Cause of Death: Medical Examiner

Multidisciplinary Investigation/Review

Was the fatality investigation conducted by a Multidisciplinary Team (MDT)?No

Comments: The ACS investigation adhered to previously approved protocols for joint investigation.

Was the fatality reviewed by an OCFS approved Child Fatality Review Team? No

Comments: There is no OCFS approved Child Fatality Review Team in the NYC region.

SCR Fatality Report Summary

Alleged Victim(s)	Alleged Perpetrator(s)	Allegation(s)	Allegation Outcome
030201 - Deceased Child, Male, 5 Mons	030203 - Father, Male, 34 Year(s)	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated
030201 - Deceased Child, Male, 5 Mons	030202 - Mother, Female, 30 Year(s)	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated
030201 - Deceased Child, Male, 5 Mons	030203 - Father, Male, 34 Year(s)	DOA / Fatality	Unsubstantiated
030201 - Deceased Child, Male, 5 Mons	030202 - Mother, Female, 30 Year(s)	DOA / Fatality	Unsubstantiated

CPS Fatality Casework/Investigative Activities

	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
All children observed?	×			

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When appropriate, children were interviewed?	×		
Alleged subject(s) interviewed face-to-face?	×		
All 'other persons named' interviewed face-to-face?	×		
Contact with source?	×		
All appropriate Collaterals contacted?	×		
Was a death-scene investigation performed?	×		
Was there discussion with all parties (youth, other household members, and staff) who were present that day (if nonverbal, observation and comments in case notes)?	×		
Coordination of investigation with law enforcement?	×		
Did the investigation adhere to established protocols for a joint investigation?	×		
Was there timely entry of progress notes and other required documentation?	×		

Additional information:

Records pertaining to the child's death were reviewed via the CONNECTIONS database.

Fatality Safety Assessment Activities

	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
Were there any surviving siblings or other children in the household?	\boxtimes			
Was there an adequate safety assessment of impending or immediate d in the household named in the report:	langer to su	ırviving sib	lings/other	children
Within 24 hours?	×			
At 7 days?	×			
At 30 days?	\boxtimes			
Was there an approved Initial Safety Assessment for all surviving siblings/ other children in the household within 24 hours?	×			
Are there any safety issues that need to be referred back to the local district?		X		
When safety factors were present that placed the surviving siblings/other children in the household in impending or immediate danger of serious harm, were the safety interventions, including parent/caretaker actions adequate?	X			

Fatality Risk Assessment / Risk Assessment Profile



Bereavement counseling

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				Yes	No	N/A	Unable to
Was the risk assessment/RAP adeq	uata in this	casa?		X			Determine
During the course of the investigati gathered to assess risk to all surviv household?	on, was suf	ficient info		X			
Was there an adequate assessment	of the fami	ly's need fo	r services?	×			
Did the protective factors in this ca petition in Family Court at any tim investigation?	-		o file a		X		
Were appropriate/needed services	offered in t	his case		×			
Place	ment Activit	ies in Respoi	nse to the Fat	ality Investi	gation		
							TT 11 4
				Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
Did the safety factors in the case show the need for the surviving siblings/other children in the household be removed or placed in foster care at any time during this fatality investigation?					X		
Were there surviving siblings/other children in the household removed as a result of this fatality report/investigation?					×		
Explain as necessary: No safety factors were noted. In an at same crib. The ME listed the SC's descreported the SC was very well nourisiplaced the children to sleep at approximation reasonable time.	ath as undet hed. ACS no	ermined, as oted that the	there were re BM did not	no signs of t t check on t	maltreatment he children. H	or abuse. T Iowever, th	he ME e BM
	Legal	Activity Rel	ated to the Fa	ntality			
Was there legal activity as a result of	of the fatali	ty investiga	ation? There	was no leg	gal activity		
Serv	vices Provide	d to the Fam	ily in Respon	se to the Fat	tality		
Services	Provided After Death	Offered, but Refused	Offered, Unknown if Used	Needed but not Offered	Needed but Unavaliable	N/A	CDR Lead to Referral
Bereavement counseling	\boxtimes						

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X						
	×					
					×	
					×	
					×	
					×	
					×	
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					×	
					×	
					×	
×						
					×	
					×	
					×	
					X	
					×	
Additional information, if necessary: The family has engaged in services.						

Were services provided to siblings or other children in the household to address any immediate needs and support their well-being in response to the fatality? Yes

Explain:

The parents accepted PPRS under the auspices of Leake and Watts. The parents engaged in bereavement counseling. The fourteen-year-old sibling engaged in individual counseling to address the trauma and school attendance. The three-year-old and five-month-old siblings received early intervention evaluations.

Were services provided to parent(s) and other care givers to address any immediate needs related to the fatality? Yes

Explain:

The parents accepted PPRS for the family. According to ACS documentation, the family has made positive changes as a result the services and remain engaged in services.

History Prior to the Fatality
Child Information

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Did the child have a history of alleged child abuse/maltreatment?	No						
Was there an open CPS case with this child at the time of death?	No						
Was the child ever placed outside of the home prior to the death?	No						
Were there any siblings ever placed outside of the home prior to this child's death? No							
Was the child acutely ill during the two weeks before death?	No						
Infants Under One Year	· Old						
During pregnancy, mother:							
☐ Had medical complications / infections	☐ Had heavy alcohol use						
☐ Misused over-the-counter or prescription drugs	☐ Smoked tobacco						
☐ Experienced domestic violence	☐ Used illicit drugs						
☑ Was not noted in the case record to have any of the issues listed							
Infant was born:							
☐ Drug exposed	☐ With fetal alcohol effects or syndrome						
✓ With neither of the issues listed noted in case record	with retai alcohol circets of syndrolic						
With hertifer of the issues fisted noted in case record							
CPS - Investigative History Three Yea	rs Prior to the Fatality						
There is no CPS investigative history within three years prior to the fa	tality.						
CPS - Investigative History More Than Three	Years Prior to the Fatality						
There family had no CPS history.							
There failing had no er a history.							
Known CPS History Outside	e of NYS						
There is no CPS history outside of NYS.							
There is no Cr 5 instory outside of N 1 5.							
Services Open at the Time o	f the Fatality						
	-						
Dequired Action(c)							
Required Action(s)							
Are there Required Actions related to compliance issues for provis ☐Yes ☒No	sions of CPS or Preventive services ?						
Preventive Services His	tory						

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There is no record of Preventive Services History provided to the deceased child, the deceased child's siblings, and/or the

other children residing in the deceased child's household at the time of the fatality.



Required Action(s)
Are there Required Actions related to the compliance issues for provision of Foster Care Services? □Yes ⊠No
Foster Care Placement History
There is no record of foster care placement history provided to the deceased child, the deceased child's siblings, and/or the other children residing in the deceased child's household at the time of the fatality.
Legal History Within Three Years Prior to the Fatality
Was there any legal activity within three years prior to the fatality investigation? There was no legal activity
Additional Local District Comments
N/A
Recommended Action(s)
Are there any recommended actions for local or state administrative or policy changes? □Yes ⊠No Are there any recommended prevention activities resulting from the review? □Yes ⊠No

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