



Report Identification Number: RO-21-015

Prepared by: New York State Office of Children & Family Services

Issue Date: Nov 29, 2021

This report, prepared pursuant to section 20(5) of the Social Services Law (SSL), concerns:

- 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 Senate of the State of New York.

This report may **only** 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.



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
FM-Foster Mother	SS-Surviving Sibling	PS-Parent Sub
CH/CHN-Child/Children	OA-Other Adult	
Contacts		
LE-Law Enforcement	CW-Case Worker	CP-Case Planner
Dr.-Doctor	ME-Medical Examiner	EMS-Emergency Medical Services
DC-Day Care	FD-Fire Department	BM-Biological Mother
CPS-Child Protective Services		
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-Other	
Miscellaneous		
IND-Indicated	UNF-Unfounded	SO-Sexual Offender
Sub-Substantiated	Unsub-Unsubstantiated	DV-Domestic Violence
LDSS-Local Department of Social Service	ACS-Administration for Children's Services	NYPD-New York City Police Department
PPRS-Purchased Preventive Rehabilitative Services	TANF-Temporary Assistance to Needy Families	FC-Foster Care
MH-Mental Health	ER-Emergency Room	COS-Court Ordered Services
OP-Order of Protection	RAP-Risk Assessment Profile	FASP-Family Assessment Plan
FAR-Family Assessment Response	Hx-History	Tx-Treatment
CAC-Child Advocacy Center	PIP-Program Improvement Plan	yo- year(s) old
CPR-Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation	ASTO-Allowing Sex Abuse to Occur	



Case Information

Report Type: Child Deceased
Age: 3 month(s)

Jurisdiction: Monroe
Gender: Female

Date of Death: 06/13/2021
Initial Date OCFS Notified: 06/13/2021

Presenting Information

Monroe County Department of Human Services (MCDHS) received a report alleging while in the care of the mother, the 3-month-old subject child became unresponsive and appeared blue in the face and body. After multiple failed attempts to revive the child, she was pronounced deceased on 6/13/21. The child also presented with bruises all over her body in multiple stages of healing.

Executive Summary

On 6/13/21, Monroe County Department of Human Services (MCDHS) received an SCR report regarding the death of the 3-month-old female child that occurred on the same date. At the time of the child’s death, she resided with her mother. The child’s father resided outside of the home and there were no siblings or other children in either home.

Through a joint investigation with law enforcement, it was learned that the mother and infant attended a party the evening prior to the death. The father arrived at the party separately and a conversation occurred between the parents. The mother suggested she and the father rekindle their relationship, though the father declined. The mother left the party and drove around the area, with the subject child. Video footage from the mother’s apartment complex showed her and the subject child return home. The subject child can be seen in the stroller, moving her arm. An unidentified period later, the mother exited the apartment and stopped under one of the cameras. The subject child was observed with no clothes on and there were clear observable injuries to her body. She was observed to be unresponsive in the video. The mother brought the subject child back into the apartment and, after a few moments, returned in the video footage holding clothing for the subject child.

An autopsy was performed, the manner of death was listed as homicide and the cause was identified as blunt force trauma. Injuries included abrasions and contusions to the forehead and frontal scalp, left upper and lower eyelids, nose, right side of face, left cheek, right side of the occipital scalp, left side of the posterior temporal scalp and base of neck. The final autopsy report continued that the child had a fractured nasal bone, diffused subgalea hemorrhage, diffused subarachnoid hemorrhage, fractures of the left side of the parietal bone and occipital bones bilaterally. Regarding the child’s torso injuries, there were abrasions and contusions to the right side of the mid abdomen, right side of the pelvis, right side of the posterior torso and inferior left buttock. The child also had abrasions and contusions of the posterior right arm, right forearm, left arm, right knee, right left, and left thigh.

The mother reported the father caused the injuries that led to the child’s death, though her story lacked consistency. The father was interviewed and denied knowledge of how the child died. The father reported he last saw the child alive at the friend’s party on 6/12/21. The father was detained and deported to his home country. The father was not criminally charged in the subject child’s death as there was no evidence he was present with the child at the time her injuries were inflicted.

On 6/16/21, the mother was arrested and charged with 2nd degree murder. The mother remained incarcerated at the time of this writing, pending trial.

MCDHS indicated the allegations of Inadequate Guardianship, DOA/Fatality, Parent’s Drug and Alcohol Misuse, Fractures, and Lacerations, Bruises, Welts against the mother. Evidence received from collateral contact with law enforcement, friends from the party the night prior to the death, the ME’s report, and video surveillance taken from the



night and morning of the child’s death all reflected the mother was the sole caretaker when the child sustained life-threatening injuries. The mother was arrested and charged in the child’s death. There were no other children and the mother remained incarcerated at the time of this writing, thus fatality-related services were not provided to her. The father was deported prior to MCDHS providing him with resources related to the death.

Findings Related to the CPS Investigation of the Fatality

Safety Assessment:

- Was sufficient information gathered to make the decision recorded on the:

- Safety assessment due at the time of determination? N/A

Determination:

- Was sufficient information gathered to make determination(s) for all allegations as well as any others identified in the course of the investigation? Yes, sufficient information was gathered to determine all allegations.
- Was the determination made by the district to unfound or indicate appropriate? Yes

Explain:

MCDHS indicated the allegations based on the evidence gathered and closed the case. There were no siblings or other children in the home, thus safety assessments were not required.

Was the decision to close the case appropriate? Yes

Was casework activity commensurate with appropriate and relevant statutory or regulatory requirements? Yes

Was there sufficient documentation of supervisory consultation? Yes, the case record has detail of the consultation.

Explain:

Casework activity was commensurate with best casework practice.

Required Actions Related to the Fatality

Are there Required Actions related to the compliance issue(s)? Yes No

Fatality-Related Information and Investigative Activities

Incident Information

Date of Death: 06/13/2021

Time of Death: 11:49 AM

Time of fatal incident, if different than time of death:

Unknown



County where fatality incident occurred: Monroe
 Was 911 or local emergency number called? No
 Did EMS respond to the scene? No
 At time of incident leading to death, had child used alcohol or drugs? No

Child's activity at time of incident:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping | <input type="checkbox"/> Working | <input type="checkbox"/> Driving / Vehicle occupant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playing | <input type="checkbox"/> Eating | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unknown |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | | |

Did child have supervision at time of incident leading to death? Yes

At time of incident was supervisor impaired?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drug Impaired | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alcohol Impaired |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Impaired by illness | <input type="checkbox"/> Impaired by disability |

At time of incident supervisor was:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Distracted | <input type="checkbox"/> Absent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asleep | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: N/A |

Total number of deaths at incident event:

Children ages 0-18: 1
 Adults: 0

Household Composition at time of Fatality

Household	Relationship	Role	Gender	Age
Deceased Child's Household	Deceased Child	Alleged Victim	Female	3 Month(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Mother	Alleged Perpetrator	Female	38 Year(s)
Other Household 1	Father	No Role	Male	32 Year(s)

LDSS Response

MCDHS initiated the fatality investigation within 24 hours after the report was received and coordinated their efforts with their multidisciplinary team. MCDHS began gathering information about the family and the events leading up to the subject child's death.

The mother was interviewed on multiple occasions by both MCDHS and law enforcement. During the initial interview, the mother confirmed that she went to a party at her friend's home, where the father was also in attendance. The record reflected the mother's account of events became difficult to follow. The mother reported she and the father returned to her apartment and engaged in an argument. The mother reported the father was alone with the subject child at several points during the night of 6/12/21 into 6/13/21 and she believed that was when the child sustained the life-threatening injuries. There were inconsistencies in the mother's story and law enforcement obtained surveillance footage from the apartment complex where the mother resided. Video footage showed the mother and subject child alone at the apartment. Footage revealed the child with multiple injuries after being brought into the home with the mother. There was no evidence of the father's presence at the apartment complex in the video footage. The father was compliant with the law enforcement investigation and denied knowledge of the subject child's death. The father reported he saw the mother and subject child at the party on 6/12/21 and he told the mother he did not wish to rekindle their relationship. The father was detained by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and deported to his home country.



Friends from the party were interviewed and reported the subject child was observed on 6/12/21. The child was observed to be free from injuries and interacting with friends and family. Friends reported the mother and subject child left the party together and the father remained at the party.

On 6/16/21, law enforcement arrested and charged the mother with 2nd degree murder due to the evidence they had against her. The medical examiner's final autopsy reported listed the subject child's cause of death as homicide. The mother was not offered fatality-related services as she was in jail for the remainder of the investigation.

Throughout the investigation, MCDHS spoke with numerous collateral sources, including medical staff, the pediatrician, and law enforcement. MCDHS indicated and closed their investigation once case objectives were met. There were no siblings or other children present in the home and the mother remained incarcerated, pending trial.

Official Manner and Cause of Death

Official Manner: Homicide

Primary Cause of Death: From an injury - external cause

Person Declaring Official Manner and Cause of Death: Medical Examiner

Multidisciplinary Investigation/Review

Was the fatality investigation conducted by a Multidisciplinary Team (MDT)? Yes

Comments: MCDHS adhered to previously approved protocols for joint investigations by coordinating efforts with law enforcement and notifying the DA's office of the death.

Was the fatality reviewed by an OCFS approved Child Fatality Review Team? Yes

SCR Fatality Report Summary

Alleged Victim(s)	Alleged Perpetrator(s)	Allegation(s)	Allegation Outcome
058703 - Deceased Child, Female, 3 Mons	058704 - Mother, Female, 38 Year(s)	DOA / Fatality	Substantiated
058703 - Deceased Child, Female, 3 Mons	058704 - Mother, Female, 38 Year(s)	Fractures	Substantiated
058703 - Deceased Child, Female, 3 Mons	058704 - Mother, Female, 38 Year(s)	Inadequate Guardianship	Substantiated
058703 - Deceased Child, Female, 3 Mons	058704 - Mother, Female, 38 Year(s)	Lacerations / Bruises / Welts	Substantiated
058703 - Deceased Child, Female, 3 Mons	058704 - Mother, Female, 38 Year(s)	Parents Drug / Alcohol Misuse	Substantiated

CPS Fatality Casework/Investigative Activities

	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
All children observed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



When appropriate, children were interviewed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alleged subject(s) interviewed face-to-face?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
All 'other persons named' interviewed face-to-face?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contact with source?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
All appropriate Collaterals contacted?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Was a death-scene investigation performed?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coordination of investigation with law enforcement?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Was there timely entry of progress notes and other required documentation?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Additional information:

MCDHS contacted relevant collateral sources.

Fatality Safety Assessment Activities

	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
Were there any surviving siblings or other children in the household?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Legal Activity Related to the Fatality

Was there legal activity as a result of the fatality investigation?

Family Court

Criminal Court

Order of Protection

Criminal Charge: Murder Degree: 2			
Date Charges Filed:	Against Whom?	Date of Disposition:	Disposition:
06/16/2021	Mother	Pending	NA
Comments:	On 6/16/21, the mother was arrested and charged with Murder in the 2nd degree. At the time of case closure, she remained in jail.		

Services Provided to the Family in Response to the Fatality

Services	Provided After Death	Offered, but Refused	Offered, Unknown if Used	Not Offered	Needed but Unavailable	N/A	CDR Lead to Referral
Bereavement counseling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				



Economic support	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Funeral arrangements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Housing assistance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mental health services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Foster care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Legal services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Homemaking Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parenting Skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Domestic Violence Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Early Intervention	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alcohol/Substance abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child Care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Intensive case management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family or others as safety resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Additional information, if necessary:
MCDHS arranged for the mother to be transported to the mental health unit for an intake following the death. Additional fatality related services were not offered as the mother was arrested shortly after the death and remained in jail at the time of this writing. The father was deported back to his home country.

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? N/A

Explain:
There were no siblings or other children in the home.

Were services provided to parent(s) and other care givers to address any immediate needs related to the fatality? No

Explain:
Fatality related services were not offered to the mother and father. The mother was incarcerated following the death and the father was deported.

History Prior to the Fatality

Child Information

Did the child have a history of alleged child abuse/maltreatment? 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? N/A
Was the child acutely ill during the two weeks before death? No



Infants Under One Year Old

During pregnancy, mother:

- Had medical complications / infections
- Misused over-the-counter or prescription drugs
- Experienced domestic violence
- Was not noted in the case record to have any of the issues listed
- Had heavy alcohol use
- Smoked tobacco
- Used illicit drugs

Infant was born:

- Drug exposed
- With neither of the issues listed noted in case record
- With fetal alcohol effects or syndrome

CPS - Investigative History Three Years Prior to the Fatality

There is no CPS investigative history in NYS within three years prior to the fatality.

CPS - Investigative History More Than Three Years Prior to the Fatality

There was no CPS investigative history more than three years prior to the fatality.

Known CPS History Outside of NYS

There was no known history out of New York State.

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

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