



Report Identification Number: NY-20-045

Prepared by: New York City Regional Office

Issue Date: Nov 23, 2020

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 Not Found
Age: Unknown

Jurisdiction: Kings
Gender: Female

Date of Death: Unknown
Initial Date OCFS Notified: 05/26/2020

Presenting Information

The 5/26/20 report alleged the mother strapped her two thirteen-year-old daughters with belts, by their arms and chest, to dining room chairs as a form of discipline for not listening. The chairs were wired for the purpose of electrocution. She then electrocuted the children leading to their death. The mother hit them on their buttocks with belts causing welts. The mother had a history of not being able to “handle” her daughters. There was a neighbor present for the electrocution and who tried to intervene, but the mother kicked the neighbor who called 911. It was reported that the mother was pregnant. A male arrived at the home and put the mother in handcuffs and placed her in a police car. EMS did not arrive until 40 minutes later to transport the children to the hospital or morgue.

Executive Summary

The SCR registered a report of child abuse and maltreatment against a mother on behalf of her two thirteen-year-old female children; the allegations were DOA/Fatality, IG, XCP and L/B/W. The ACS investigation showed the family did not reside at the case address or exist. There was no school record of the children. ACS interviewed LE and found the family was not known to the reported precinct. ACS conducted several database clearances that yielded no results of the reported family. ACS unsubstantiated the allegations and closed the case stating they found no credible evidence.

According to ACS, the report narrative contained conflicting information that stated the children were being electrocuted upon arrival and a neighbor turned off the electric chairs and the children were dead upon arrival. Conflicting dates of birth for the mother were given and only the month and day for the children’s date of birth was provided. The narrative contained two phone numbers for a precinct in addition to a cell phone number and an email address that connected to no one familiar to the reported family. ACS’ supervisory and casework team found this case was called in maliciously.

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?**
- **Was the determination made by the district to unfound or indicate appropriate?**

Yes, sufficient information was gathered to determine all allegations.

Yes

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:

No child found.

Required Actions Related to the Fatality

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

Fatality-Related Information and Investigative Activities

Household Composition at time of Fatality

Household	Relationship	Role	Gender	Age
Deceased Child's Household	Deceased Child	Alleged Victim	Female	13 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Mother	Alleged Perpetrator	Female	35 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Other Deceased Child - sister	Alleged Victim	Female	13 Year(s)

LDSS Response

ACS initiated the 5/26/20 investigation within the required timeframe. The ACS Specialist contacted the phone number reported in the narrative and it led to an organization which was closed. The Specialist called another reported number and it was out of service.

The ACS Specialist contacted the precinct and was told no fatal incidents were reported during the month of May; and the case address was not in their catchment district. There was no officer by the name given or by the email address reported. The Specialist also contacted the precinct assigned to the case address and was told the same.

On 5/26/20, ACS conducted a search for the reported family that yielded no results. The reported phone numbers belonged to persons who resided out of New York State and were not familiar with the family. The Specialist visited the case address and the reported family name was not listed on the directory or the mailbox. The Specialist interviewed the tenant and her adult son; they reported no teens resided in the home. Three neighbors reported no teens resided in the building. The building personnel, who resided in the building, reported the same and added that the building currently housed only very young children.

On 5/27/20, the Specialist proceeded to an address similar to the reported address and several tenants located on the fifth and sixth floors reported no children by the name on the report resided in the building and not for the past 20 years.

ACS' investigative consultants researched the official database systems and found no evidence to suggest the alleged subject and children existed. ACS investigation involved the District Attorney's Office and LE, and yielded no evidence that the reported incident occurred. ACS concluded the reported concerns had been maliciously and falsely reported. This investigation resulted in no evidence of a fatality.



On 7/2/20, ACS unsubstantiated the allegations of DOA/Fatality, L/B/W, XCP and IG of the two thirteen-year-old children by the mother citing lack of credible evidence to support the allegations. ACS closed the case.

Multidisciplinary Investigation/Review

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

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

SCR Fatality Report Summary

Alleged Victim(s)	Alleged Perpetrator(s)	Allegation(s)	Allegation Outcome
055241 - Other Deceased Child - sister, Female, 13 Year(s)	055240 - Mother, Female, 35 Year(s)	DOA / Fatality	Unsubstantiated
055241 - Other Deceased Child - sister, Female, 13 Year(s)	055240 - Mother, Female, 35 Year(s)	Excessive Corporal Punishment	Unsubstantiated
055241 - Other Deceased Child - sister, Female, 13 Year(s)	055240 - Mother, Female, 35 Year(s)	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated
055241 - Other Deceased Child - sister, Female, 13 Year(s)	055240 - Mother, Female, 35 Year(s)	Lacerations / Bruises / Welts	Unsubstantiated
055242 - Deceased Child, Female, 13 Year(s)	055240 - Mother, Female, 35 Year(s)	DOA / Fatality	Unsubstantiated
055242 - Deceased Child, Female, 13 Year(s)	055240 - Mother, Female, 35 Year(s)	Excessive Corporal Punishment	Unsubstantiated
055242 - Deceased Child, Female, 13 Year(s)	055240 - Mother, Female, 35 Year(s)	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated
055242 - Deceased Child, Female, 13 Year(s)	055240 - Mother, Female, 35 Year(s)	Lacerations / Bruises / Welts	Unsubstantiated

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
All 'other persons named' interviewed face-to-face?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contact with source?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Child Fatality Report

Coordination of investigation with law enforcement?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did the investigation adhere to established protocols for a joint investigation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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:

Children not found.

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? There was no legal activity.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Funeral arrangements	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Housing assistance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Mental health services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Foster care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Health care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Legal services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Family planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Homemaking Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Parenting Skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Domestic Violence Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Early Intervention	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Alcohol/Substance abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Child Care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				



Intensive case management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Family or others as safety resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

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:

No children were found.

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

Explain:

No child found.

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 CPS History outside of NYS.

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