



Report Identification Number: NY-16-026

Prepared by: New York City Regional Office

Issue Date: 9/19/2016

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	

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
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 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	



Case Information

Report Type: Child Deceased
Age: 2 month(s)

Jurisdiction: New York
Gender: Male

Date of Death: 03/19/2016
Initial Date OCFS Notified: 03/19/2016

Presenting Information

On 3/19/16, the SCR registered a report regarding the death of this two-month-old male SC. The report alleged that at approximately 1:30 A.M. on 3/19/16, the SC was put to bed by the BF. When the BF woke up to check the SC, he was not breathing. The BF awoke the BM and they called 911. At 8:10 A.M., the SC arrived at the hospital unresponsive, not breathing and in cardiac arrest. At 8:33 A.M., hospital staff pronounced the SC dead. The SC was an otherwise healthy baby at birth and did not have any preexisting medical condition; making his death suspicious.

Executive Summary

This two-month-old SC died on 3/19/16 while in the care of his biological parents (BP). According to ACS' investigation, at approximately 1:30 A.M., the BF placed the SC to sleep on his right side in a bassinet. The BF observed the SC to be alive at the time. At approximately 7:30 A.M., the BF checked on the SC and found him unresponsive. The BF called out to the BM and immediately called 911. The BF began CPR on the SC as instructed over the phone by the 911 operator. EMS arrived at the home within minutes and continued CPR on the SC and throughout transport to the hospital. The SC arrived at the hospital in cardiac arrest and hospital staff continued resuscitation efforts on the SC until 8:33 A.M., when medical staff pronounced him dead. According to the ME, the SC's cause of death and manner of death were undetermined.

ACS initiated the investigation within the mandated time frame. The ACS' Specialist obtained information from the hospital and NYPD personnel which deemed the SC's death was not suspicious. The accounts of the SC's death provided by the BPs and relevant information obtained from collateral sources were consistent throughout the investigation. In addition, during the investigation, ACS and the NYPD assessed the surviving children to be safe in the care of the BPs. The SC had two surviving older brothers; ages two and nine-years-old respectively. Both children had special needs and they are engaged in services.

On 6/10/16, ACS unsubstantiated the allegations of the report. ACS based its decision on the ME's report which stated the SC's cause of death and manner of death were undetermined. ACS closed the case and referred the family to community based services. The children's therapists confirmed that the children were engaged in services and their parents were in compliance with their treatment plans.

ACS exhibited good case documentation in the progress notes of this investigation. ACS also exhibited good casework practice by utilizing language services to engage given the family only spoke Spanish. At the time of the closing of the investigation, there were no child protective concerns regarding the surviving children.

Findings Related to the CPS Investigation of the Fatality

Safety Assessment:



NYS Office of Children and Family Services - Child Fatality Report

- Was sufficient information gathered to make the decision recorded on the:
 - Approved Initial Safety Assessment? Yes
 - Safety assessment due at the time of determination? Yes
- Was the safety decision on the approved Initial Safety Assessment appropriate? Yes

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:

The casework activities were commensurate with case circumstances.

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:

The surviving children were doing well in the care of their parents. They were receiving services and there were no safety concerns for the children.

Required Actions Related to the Fatality

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

Issue:	Timely/Adequate Seven Day Assessment
Summary:	ACS did not complete the Seven Day Assessment in timely manner. The Seven Day Assessment was due on 3/26/16; however, it was conducted and approved on 4/20/16.
Legal Reference:	SSL 424(3);18 NYCRR432.2(b)(3)(ii)(c)
Action:	The Administration for Children’s Services (ACS) must submit a corrective action plan within 45 days that identifies what action it has, or will take, to address the citation(s) identified in the fatality report. ACS must meet with the staff involved with this fatality investigation and inform NYCRO of the date of the meeting, who attended and what was discussed.

Fatality-Related Information and Investigative Activities**Incident Information**

Date of Death: 03/19/2016

Time of Death: 08:33 AM

NY-16-026

FINAL

Page 4 of 11



NYS Office of Children and Family Services - Child Fatality Report

County where fatality incident occurred: New York

Was 911 or local emergency number called? Yes

Time of Call: 08:00 AM

Did EMS to respond to the scene? Yes

At time of incident leading to death, had child used alcohol or drugs? No

Child's activity at time of incident:

- Sleeping
- Working
- Driving / Vehicle occupant
- Playing
- Eating
- Unknown
- Other

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

Is the caretaker listed in the Household Composition? Yes - Caregiver

2

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	2 Month(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Father	Alleged Perpetrator	Male	33 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Mother	Alleged Perpetrator	Female	33 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Sibling	No Role	Male	9 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Sibling	No Role	Male	2 Year(s)

LDSS Response

On 3/19/16, the ACS Specialist initiated the investigation and contacted the hospital staff, the NYPD detective, EMS and the ME and they all reported there were no signs of trauma or external injury to the SC. The SC appeared well nourished and well cared for. He was seen by his Dr. on 03/18/16 and found to be well. The detective deemed the SC's death non-suspicious pending the autopsy results. The detective also visited the home and deemed the two older brothers safe.

The Specialist then visited the hospital to interview the BPs utilizing language services. The BM was too distraught to be interviewed; however, the BF provided an account of the events that led up to the SC's death which was consistent with the information that was already known.

Later that same date, the Specialist visited the case address to assess the two surviving siblings. The children, who both have special needs, were non-verbal however, they were active and deemed safe in the care of family members at the time.



NYS Office of Children and Family Services - Child Fatality Report

ACS confirmed the two surviving children receive services that was arranged by their parents for their special needs.

On 3/20/16, the ME reported that there were no findings regarding the SC's death pending the autopsy results.

On 3/21/16, the Specialist visited the family. The family did not provide any new information regarding their son's death. The BM reported that on 3/18/16, the SC was seen by his Dr. for a well checkup and vaccinations. The Dr. did not report any health concerns for the SC. The BM denied the BF co-slept with the SC. She disclosed that the two surviving siblings were special needs children and were engaged in services. The Specialist observed the children to be safe in the home at the time of the visit.

On 4/25/16, 5/17/16 and 6/7/16, the Specialist made follow-up visits to the family to assess the surviving children and the family functioning. The Specialist deemed the children safe in the care of their BPs. The BM had enrolled in bereavement counseling services and BF stated he found comfort by attending his church.

On 6/1/16, the ME reported that the SC's cause of death and manner of death was undetermined

On 5/18/16 and 6/10/16, the Specialist contacted the family's therapists. The therapists did not report any concerns regarding the family.

On 6/10/16, ACS unsubstantiated the allegations of the report. ACS based its decision on the information obtained during the course of the CPS investigation. The ME stated that the SC did not have any trauma on his body and was assessed to be well nourished and well cared for. Also, the SC did not have any medical issues which caused his death. The ME deemed the child's cause and manner of death undetermined.

Official Manner and Cause of Death

Official Manner: Undetermined

Primary Cause of Death: Undetermined if injury or medical cause

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 investigation adhered to approved protocols for joint investigation.

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
030241 - Deceased Child, Male, 2 Mons	030242 - Mother, Female, 33 Year(s)	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated
030241 - Deceased Child, Male, 2	030243 - Father, Male, 33 Year(s)	DOA / Fatality	Unsubstantiated



NYS Office of Children and Family Services - Child Fatality Report

Mons			
030241 - Deceased Child, Male, 2 Mons	030242 - Mother, Female, 33 Year(s)	DOA / Fatality	Unsubstantiated
030241 - Deceased Child, Male, 2 Mons	030243 - Father, Male, 33 Year(s)	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated

CPS Fatality Casework/Investigative Activities

	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
All children observed?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
When appropriate, children were interviewed?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
School	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 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"/>

Fatality Safety Assessment Activities

	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
Were there any surviving siblings or other children in the household?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Was there an adequate safety assessment of impending or immediate danger to surviving siblings/other children in the household named in the report:				
Within 24 hours?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
At 7 days?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
At 30 days?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



NYS Office of Children and Family Services - Child Fatality Report

Was there an approved Initial Safety Assessment for all surviving siblings/ other children in the household within 24 hours?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there any safety issues that need to be referred back to the local district?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Explain:
The seven day safety assessment was due on 3/26/16; however, it was conducted and approved on 4/20/16.

Fatality Risk Assessment / Risk Assessment Profile

	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
Was the risk assessment/RAP adequate in this case?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
During the course of the investigation, was sufficient information gathered to assess risk to all surviving siblings/other children in the household?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Was there an adequate assessment of the family's need for services?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did the protective factors in this case require the LDSS to file a petition in Family Court at any time during or after the investigation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Were appropriate/needed services offered in this case	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Placement Activities in Response to the Fatality Investigation

	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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Were there surviving siblings/other children in the household removed as a result of this fatality report/investigation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Explain as necessary:
The surviving children were doing well in the care of their parents. There were no safety concerns for the children.

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	Needed but not Offered	Needed but Unavailable	N/A	CDR Lead to Referral
Bereavement counseling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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:

ACS did not arrange the special needs services for the surviving children, these services were in place prior to ACS involvement with the family.

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 children were engaged in services and their parents were in compliance with their treatment plans.

History Prior to the Fatality



Child Information

- 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
- 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 within three years prior to the fatality.

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

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

Required Action(s)

Are there Required Actions related to compliance issues for provisions of CPS or Preventive services ?

- Yes No

Preventive Services History

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.



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