

## 6-Month Final 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:** 121211DSP-Fore-425      **Agency:** Forest County Department of Social Services

**Child Information** (at time of incident)

Age: 1 Year      Gender:  Female    Male

Race or Ethnicity: American Indian/Alaskan Native, Native American

Special Needs: Hormone Deficiencies

**Date of Incident:** December 11, 2012

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

On December 27, 2012, the agency received a report regarding a one-year-old child admitted to the hospital in critical condition due to alleged medical neglect. It was reported the child presented as "almost dead," after she did not receive her medication as prescribed for life-threatening health conditions. The report indicated that on the previous day the child's parents tried to wake the child and found her unresponsive. The parents were previously told by medical professionals to bring the child immediately to the emergency room if that occurred; however, the parents waited almost 19 hours before doing so. The child was assessed by medical personnel and then transported to a larger hospital due to her grave condition. The child was described as "completely devastated neurologically" because of the incident. The mother admitted she forgot to administer emergency medication for the child but said she was trying to contact the child's doctor. Emergency rescue was contacted early the next morning and the child was transported to a local emergency room. As a result of law enforcement's investigation, the mother was criminally charged with Neglecting a Child (Consequence is Great Bodily Harm) and 1<sup>st</sup>-Degree Recklessly Endangering Safety. 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 the maltreatment of neglect to the child by the mother. Medical professionals determined the child suffered neurological damage and brain injury due to the parents' delay in seeking medical care after the child became unresponsive. The agency determined the child unsafe and placed her in out-of-home care with a relative. A Child in Need of Protection or Services petition was filed and the case remained open to provide ongoing case management services.

Yes    No   Criminal investigation pending or completed?

Yes    No   Criminal charges filed? If yes, against whom? The mother.

**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):

At the time of the incident, the child resided with the mother, the father, and the child's younger brother (then two months old). The child's older brother, (then three years old), was placed with his father and had visitation every other week with the mother.

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:**

**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.)

On November 16, 2011, the agency screened in a CPS Report alleging medical neglect to the child by the mother. An assessment was completed, and the allegation of neglect was unsubstantiated. The family was referred to community resources and the case remained open with the agency for voluntary ongoing services. The family received ongoing services from December 5, 2011 to December 29, 2011, at which time the case was closed and the family continued to receive services in the community.

**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.)

On September 27, 2011, the agency screened out a Services Report.

On November 8, 2011, the agency screened out a CPS Report.

On November 16, 2011, the agency screened in a CPS Report alleging neglect to the child by the mother. An assessment was completed, and the allegation of neglect was unsubstantiated. The family was referred to community resources and the case remained open with the agency for voluntary services.

On January 5, 2012, the agency screened in a CPS Report alleging medical neglect to the child by the mother and the father. An assessment was completed and the allegation of neglect was unsubstantiated. The agency determined the child was safe in the home and was receiving all necessary medical care. The family continued to receive services in the community, so the agency closed the case.

**Summary of any investigation involving the child, any member of the child's family and alleged maltreater conducted under ch. 48 and any services provided to the child and child's family since the date of the 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 maltreatment of neglect to the child by the mother. Medical professionals determined the child suffered neurological damage and brain injury due to the parents' delay in seeking medical care after the child became unresponsive. The agency determined the child unsafe and placed her in out-of-home care with a relative. A Child in Need of Protection or Services petition was filed and the case remained open to provide ongoing case management services.

**B. Children residing in out-of-home care (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 or other actions that constitute 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation assistance  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Safety plan implemented   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collaboration with law enforcement                                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Temporary physical custody of child  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collaboration with medical professionals                           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Petitioned for court order / CHIPS (child in need of protection or services) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supervised visitation  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Placement into foster home  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Case remains open for services                                     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Placement with relatives   | <input type="checkbox"/> Case closed by agency   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ongoing Services case management   | <input type="checkbox"/> Initiated efforts to address or enhance community collaboration on CA/N cases |

Other (describe):

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**FOR DSP COMPLETION IF RECORD OR ON-SITE REVIEW WAS UNDERTAKEN:**

**Summary of policy or practice changes to address issues identified based on the record or on-site 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. In accordance with the DCF memo Series 2010-13, dated December 7, 2010 pertaining to the Child Welfare Case Review Protocol, the DSP completed a records review in case # 131018DSP-Fore-425.

The review found agency practice in Access was compliant with screening standards. The report was correctly screened-in within the required timeframe. The agency practice in Access was not compliant with information gathering, safety determinations and response time required per Standards. The Access report contained insufficient information. Response time and the safety determinations were not in accordance with Standards. Multiple required notifications were not made in relation to the Access report per Standards.

The review found agency practice in Initial Assessment was compliant with documentation timeframes per Standards. The assessment was documented and approved within the required timeframes. Agency practice in Initial Assessment was not compliant with information gathering, contact requirements, safety determinations and notification requirements per Standards. The assessment contained insufficient information in multiple areas necessary in order to meet Standards and make safety determinations. The required contacts and assessment of household members were not completed according to Standards. Multiple required notifications in relation to the Initial Assessment were not made according to Standards.

Agency practice in Ongoing Services was not compliant with standards in multiple areas. The case transition policy was not followed. Safety determinations were not in accordance with the Wisconsin Child Protective Services Safety Intervention Standards. Case planning requirements were not followed according to Standards.

The agency has an improvement plan that requires training and technical assistance for both the supervisor and staff. The training is scheduled to occur in 2014 and 2015. The supervisor will attend Supervising Safety in Spring 2015 provided by the state. The Supervisor and staff will attend Access, Initial Assessment, Safety Intervention, and Case Planning trainings provided by the child welfare training system. The DSP will provide technical assistance as requested by the agency in order to assist in improving practice in the areas identified.

**Recommendations for further changes in policies, practices, rules or statutes needed to address identified issues based on the record or on-site review:**

None at this time.

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Yes  No  Not Applicable This 6-month summary report completes the Division of Safety and Permanence (DSP) action on 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.