

90-Day Summary Report for Child Death, Serious Injury or Egregious Incident

Case Tracking Number: 110909DSP-Vilas-146 Agency: Vilas County Dept. of Social Services

Child Information: Age: 17 months Gender: Female Male
Race or Ethnicity: Native American
Special needs: None

Child's Residence: In-home Out-of-home care placement

Date of Incident: 9/9/11

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

The child and his sibling were taken to the hospital with burns and injuries. The child suffered 2nd and 3rd degree burns when the mother's boyfriend immersed him into a bathtub with scalding hot water. The sibling had what appeared to be splash burns from being nearby during the incident. While the mother was working, her boyfriend was watching her two children and his two children. The door to the bathroom was shut, and the boyfriend's children reported hearing the child and his sibling screaming. Relatives arrived early to pick up the child and his sibling to spend the weekend with them and contacted the police upon discovering the children's injuries. The child suffered burns on the lower half of his body. He also had bruising, metacarpal and ulna fractures, multiple scars on his fingers, swelling to his upper lip, and healing lesions on his face. He was found to have multiple growth arrest lines in some of his bones that are usually associated with periods of arrested growth. Because the child does not have a history of illness, it is suspected that his food supply was repeatedly restricted; i.e., food deprivation. The sibling had injuries, including splash burns and healing lesions that were not deemed serious. Medical professionals believe that the abuse was long term and characterize it as torture. The boyfriend has been criminally charged with two counts of Child Abuse - Reckless Causion of Great Bodily Harm and Reckless Causion of Bodily Harm.

Findings by agency, including material circumstances leading to incident:

The agency substantiated physical abuse to the child and his sibling by the mother's boyfriend. Neglect to the two children by their mother was substantiated. All four of the children in the home were determined unsafe. The mother and boyfriend shared care of the children while the other worked. Reportedly, on the day of the incident, the boyfriend had been fired from his job. The boyfriend took the child and his sibling into the bathroom and closed the door. The child was forcibly immersed into the scalding water, while the sibling was nearby. The sibling was likely burned from the water that splashed while her brother struggled. She also had injuries to her fingertips that were caused by the boyfriend biting her. Relatives were planning to have the two children over the weekend and decided to pick them up on Friday instead of waiting until Saturday. Reportedly, they made this decision because they had concerns about the boyfriend caring for the children. The relatives were not allowed into the home immediately upon arrival. The relatives contacted the police after seeing the injuries to the child. The mother admitted that she saw signs of abuse over time but did not want to recognize them as such. Medical professionals believe that the abuse of the mother's two children was torture, occurring over a period of time.

Additional information for children in home:

Description of the child's family:

The child lived with his mother, sibling and her boyfriend. The boyfriend shares custody of his two children, who spent 50% of their time in this family's home prior to the incident.

Yes No **Statement of Services:** Were services under ch. 48 or ch. 938 being provided to the child, 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:

N/A

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:

On 11/8/10 the agency screened in a CPS Report alleging neglect to the children by their mother. Maltreatment was unsubstantiated, and the children were determined safe. The mother declined services, and the case was closed.

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 at the age of 18 years or older:

In September 2004, the agency screened in a CPS Report alleging physical abuse to a friend's child by the mother's boyfriend. Maltreatment was substantiated, and the child was determined safe with the parent. The case was closed.

Summary of any investigation conducted under ch. 48 or ch. 938 and any services provided to the family since the date of the incident:

The agency investigated the injuries to the two children, substantiating physical abuse by the boyfriend and neglect by their mother. The agency also screened in and investigated alleged maltreatment to the boyfriend's children, which was unsubstantiated. The boyfriend's children were determined safe in their mother's care. The children were immediately taken into protective custody by Lac du Flambeau Indian Child Welfare while they were being transported to the hospital. The sibling was treated and released to a relative. Following his hospital stay, the seriously injured child was discharged to a foster home and later placed with a relative. The tribe initiated a no-contact order between the mother and children and between the boyfriend and children. The children are having supervised visitation with their biological father, who expressed desire to have placement of them following this incident. The children and family members have been referred to and are participating in services. The county agency closed the case, and the tribal agency continues to work with the families.

Additional information for children in out-of-home (OHC) placement at time of incident:

Description of the OHC placement and basis for decision to place child there:

Description of all other persons residing in the OHC placement home:

Licensing history: Including type of license, duration of license, summary of any violations by licensee or an employee of licensee that constitutes a substantial failure to protect and promote the welfare of the child.

*** Summary of actions taken by agency in response to the incident:**

The agency screened in and investigated the report of the children's injuries, substantiating physical abuse and neglect. The agency also screened in and investigated alleged maltreatment to the boyfriend's children, which was unsubstantiated. The children were determined unsafe with the mother and boyfriend. The county agency collaborated with Indian Child Welfare and medical professionals during the initial assessment. The child and sibling were taken into custody and placed with relatives. There are no-contact orders for the mother, boyfriend and children. The county agency closed the case with the family connected to services through the tribe.

***Summary of policy or practice changes to address identified issues:**

None

***Recommendations for further changes in policies, practices, rules or statutes needed to address identified issues:**

None

Statement of Completion:

Yes No This 90-day summary report completes the Division of Safety and Permanence (DSP) review of this case.

* If a full report including agency actions, changes in policies or practices and recommendations for further changes was not completed within 90 days, the DSP will complete and submit the final summary report within 6 months.