

Office of the Inspector General Report to the Governor and General Assembly (Jan. 2023)

OIG2023 # 170

Child No. 170	DOB: 06/2004	DOD: 06/2022	Natural
Age at death:	17 years		
Cause of death:	Complications of haemophilus influenza pneumonia and acute bacterial cystitis with prostatitis		
Reason for review:	Unfounded child protection investigation within one year of child's death		
Action taken:	Full investigation pending		
<p><u>Narrative:</u> Seventeen-year-old medically complex child was at the home of his mother's former paramour when he had a seizure. The former paramour called 911, and the teen was transported to the hospital, where he was pronounced deceased. The teen's diagnoses included cerebral palsy, epilepsy, and cytomegalovirus. At autopsy, the medical examiner noted his bladder was infected. Staff in the teen's primary care office reported no prior concerns. After the death concerns arose that the teen had been having seizures that were not reported and his anti-seizure medication had not been refilled for months. DCFS investigated the teen's death and indicated the former paramour for death by neglect and medical neglect and indicated the mother for medical neglect.</p> <p>Reason for Review: In October 2021, DCFS received a report that the teen had been observed with bruises. School staff told the CPI the teen, who was nonverbal and had multiple physical and cognitive disabilities, had bruising on his arm that appeared to be in various stages of healing as well as a wound on his leg. They reported the teen's mother was appropriate, but she would not pick him up if the school called her. The mother stated the bruises were from the teen biting himself and that he had engaged in self-harm behaviors since infancy. She acknowledged there had been a few instances in which she did not pick him up from school and stated the school nurse called them often. The teen's four siblings, ages 4 to 12 years, all reported they felt safe at home, and they reported the teen bit himself; the former paramour corroborated this. The mother's former paramour reported that though he was no longer in a relationship with the mother, he regularly cared for the children. The children's primary care physician reported no concerns. In December 2021, DCFS unfounded the investigation for cuts, bruises, welts, abrasions, and oral injuries by abuse.</p>			