

OIG2023 #88

Child No. 88 DOB: 11/2021 DOD: 01/2022 Accident

Age at death: 8 weeks

Cause of death: Asphyxia due to unsafe sleeping environment

Reason for review: Pending child protection investigation at time of child's death Action taken:
Investigatory review of records

Narrative: Eight-week-old was found unresponsive by his mother after he had been placed to sleep in an adult bed, between his parents. His mother called 911 while his father began CPR. The infant was transported to the hospital by ambulance, where he was pronounced deceased. The parents reported they placed him in bed instead of in his bassinet because he had been congested and fussy in the days leading up to his death. Medical records noted the parents brought the infant to the emergency room approximately a week before his death for persistent diaper rash, and the treating physician noted the rash was likely

caused by poor hygiene. Medical staff also noted the infant was underweight, in the first percentile for his age. DCFS investigated the infant's death and indicated the mother and father for death by neglect.

Reason for Review: Two weeks after the infant's birth, DCFS received a report regarding a domestic violence incident between the parents. The next day, the CPI was unable to gain access to the family's apartment, but spoke to the mother by phone, who stated the infant was sleeping in his crib in a different room when the incident occurred. She and the infant left to stay with family in a neighboring state. Law enforcement in the other state conducted a well-being check and observed the infant had a safe sleeping arrangement and was free of visible signs of abuse or neglect. Five days later, the CPI spoke with the father at the family's home, who stated the mother grabbed a knife and attempted to stab him. The CPI observed the home to be appropriate, with safe sleeping arrangements for the infant, and completed domestic violence and substance abuse assessments with the father. DCFS later indicated the investigation for substantial risk of physical injury/environment injurious to health and welfare by neglect after

receiving police records that showed a history of domestic violence, the father violated an order of protection, and the mother was hospitalized twice following domestic violence incidents.