

Office of the Inspector General Report to the Governor and General Assembly (Jan. 2024)

OIG2024 #34

Child No. 34	DOB: 07/2022	DOD: 04/2023	Homicide
Age at death:	9 months		
Cause of death:	Drowning due to neglect in bathtub		
Alleged perpetrator:	Mother		
Reason for review:	Two unfounded child protection investigations within one year of child's death		
Action taken:	Investigatory review of records		
<u>Narrative:</u> Nine-month-old was found unresponsive in a bathtub by his mother. The mother reported she put the infant and his 20-month-old sister in the bath, then did chores in another room for approximately 10 minutes. When she returned, she found the infant underwater, on his back. The mother called 911 and the infant was transported by ambulance to the hospital, where he was pronounced deceased. DCFS indicated the mother for death by neglect (#51), substantial risk of physical injury/environment injurious to health and welfare by neglect (#60), and inadequate supervision (#74).			
<u>Reason for Review:</u> In January 2023, DCFS received a report about ongoing domestic violence between the infant's mother and father, in the presence of the infant and his 17-month-old sister. DCFS opened an investigation on each parent. The CPI made multiple attempts to locate the family and spoke with staff from a neighboring state's child protection agency, who shared the family had a history of unsubstantiated reports in that state, related to domestic violence. The CPI did meet with the mother at home. She confirmed there had been a domestic violence incident in December 2022, and the infant's sister witnessed the incident. She also disclosed she had a history with a neighboring state's child welfare agency due to domestic violence with the father. The mother added she and the infant's father were not in a relationship and she had not seen him in a few months. The CPI observed the infant and his sister and noted no marks or bruises on either child. During the investigation, the CPI also interviewed the mother's paramour, who denied any domestic violence. Law enforcement noted no domestic violence incidents in Illinois involving the infant's mother or father. The children's pediatrician reported no concerns. The CPI made multiple attempts to contact the infant's father without success. DCFS unfounded both investigations for substantial risk of physical injury/environment injurious to health and welfare by neglect (#60).			