

Pennsylvania: 2023 Quarterly Summaries of Child Fatalities and Near Fatalities

1st Quarter Summaries of Child Fatalities/Near Fatalities

Lawrence

(#6) A 23-month-old male child died on January 19, 2023, as a result of physical abuse. Lawrence County Children and Youth Services indicated the report on March 17, 2023, naming the victim child's mother's paramour as the perpetrator. On the date of the incident, it was reported the victim child was found unresponsive and emergency medical services were contacted. The child was transported to the local hospital and presented in cardiac arrest with swelling to the head with a brain bleed, blood in the chest, and blood in the abdomen. The child was subsequently pronounced dead. The injuries sustained were concerning for inflicted injury. An autopsy revealed the preliminary cause of death was blunt force trauma to the head. It was determined through the investigation that the mother's paramour was the sole caregiver of the child at the time of incident. As the result of the safety assessment completed the four other children in the home at the time of the incident were placed in foster care. At the time the report was indicated, the criminal investigation was pending. The family had no prior documented child welfare involvement.