

Pennsylvania: 2023 Quarterly Summaries of Child Fatalities and Near Fatalities

2nd Quarter Summaries of Child Fatalities/Near Fatalities

Lehigh

(#10) A 4-month-old male child died on February 14, 2023, as a result of physical abuse. Lehigh County Office of Children and Youth Services indicated the report on April 12, 2023, naming the victim child's mother and the mother's paramour as the perpetrators. On the date of the incident, it was reported that the victim child was found having difficulty breathing and emergency medical services were contacted. Upon arrival of law enforcement, the child was found in cardiac arrest and cardiopulmonary resuscitation was initiated. The child was transported to the hospital and presented with bruising on the neck and upper chest and healing rib, tibia, and femur fractures. The child subsequently was pronounced dead. It was determined through the investigation that the injuries sustained were caused by blunt force and the mother and the mother's paramour were the sole caregivers of the child at the time of the incident. As the result of the safety assessment completed, the two other children in the home at the time of the incident were placed in foster care and services were provided. At the time the report was indicated, the criminal investigation was pending. The family was previously known to child welfare.