

Pennsylvania: 2023 Quarterly Summaries of Child Fatalities and Near Fatalities

2nd Quarter Summaries of Child Fatalities/Near Fatalities

Cumberland

(#6) A 13-month-old female child died on January 1, 2023, as a result of physical abuse. Cumberland County Children and Youth Services indicated the report on June 6, 2023, naming the victim child's father 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 subsequently was pronounced dead. An autopsy revealed the child died as a result homicide due to asphyxiation from multiple traumatic internal injuries; the injuries sustained were caused by a prolonged compression lasting a number of minutes. It was determined through the investigation that the father was the sole caregiver 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 remained in the mother's care and the father had no unsupervised contact with the children. The family received services. At the time the report was indicated, the father had been criminally charged. The family had no prior documented child welfare involvement.