

Pennsylvania: 2024 Quarterly Summaries of Child Fatalities and Near Fatalities

2nd Quarter Summaries of Child Fatalities/Near Fatalities

Luzerne

(#18) A 19-month-old female child died on December 23, 2022, as a result of serious physical neglect. Luzerne County Children and Youth Agency indicated the report on May 17, 2024, naming the victim child's mother and father as the perpetrators. On the date of the incident, it was reported the victim child was found unresponsive in a pack and play, and emergency medical services were contacted. The child subsequently was pronounced dead. An autopsy revealed the child died as a result of dehydration and metabolic imbalance due to neglect. It was determined through the investigation that the mother and the father left the child unsupervised, which led to the child's death. As the result of the safety assessment completed, the one other child in the home at the time of the incident was placed with relatives, and no services were provided. At the time the report was indicated, the mother and the father had been criminally charged. The family was previously known to child welfare.