Pennsylvania: 2023 Quarterly Summaries of Child Fatalities and Near Fatalities

3rd Quarter Summaries of Child Fatalities/Near Fatalities

Philadelphia

(#12) A 2-year-old female child died on July 27, 2023, as a result of physical abuse. Philadelphia Department of Human Services indicated the report on September 8, 2023, naming the victim child's maternal grandmother as the perpetrator. On the date of the incident, the victim child was shot in the back of the head by a 14-year-old cousin. Emergency medical services were contacted, and the child was transported to the local hospital. Upon arrival at the hospital the child was pronounced dead. It was determined through the investigation that the firearm used in the shooting belonged to the maternal grandmother and was left accessible and unsecured. As the result of the safety assessment completed the one other child in the home at the time of the incident was placed with a relative and services were provided. At the time the report was indicated, the maternal grandmother had been criminally charged. The family was previously known to child welfare.