Office of Children and Family Services

Child Fatality Report

Report Identification Number: NY-25-011

Prepared by: New York State Office of Children & Family Services

Issue Date: May 21, 2025

This report, prepared pursuant to section 20(5) of the Social Services Law (SSL), concerns:

- ☒ A report made to the New York Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment (SCR) involving the death of a child.
- ☐ The death of a child for whom child protective services had an open investigation or a CPS monitored services case.
- ☐ The death of a child whose care and custody or custody and guardianship has been transferred to an authorized agency.
- ☐ The death of a child for whom the local department of social services has an open preventive service case.

The Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) is mandated by section 20 of the SSL to investigate or cause for the investigation of the cause and circumstances surrounding the death, review such investigation, and prepare and issue a fatality report in regard to the categories of deaths noted above involving a child, except where a local or regional fatality review team issues a report, as authorized by law.

Such report must include: the cause of death; the identification of child protective or other services provided or actions taken regard to such child and child's family; any extraordinary or pertinent information concerning the circumstances of the child's death; whether the child or the child's family received assistance, care or services from the social services district prior to the child's death; any action or further investigation undertaken by OCFS or the social services district since the child's death; and as appropriate, recommendations for local or state administrative or policy changes.

This report contains no information that would identify the deceased child, his or her siblings, the parent, parents, or other persons legally responsible for the child, and any members of the deceased child's household.

By statute, this report will be forwarded to the social services district, chief county executive officer, chairperson of the local legislative body of the county where the child died and the social services district that had legal custody of the child, if different. Notice of the issuance of this report will be sent to the Speaker of the Assembly and the Temporary President of the Senate of the State of New York.

This report may **only** be disclosed to the public by OCFS pursuant to section 20(5) of the SSL. **It may be released by OCFS only after OCFS has determined that such disclosure is not contrary to the best interests of the deceased child's siblings or other children in the household.**

OCFS' review included an examination of actions taken by individual caseworkers and supervisors within the social services district and agencies under contract with the social services district. The observations and recommendations contained in this report reflect OCFS' assessment and the performance of these agencies.

Abbreviations

Relationships		
BM-Biological Mother	SM-Subject Mother	SC-Subject Child
BF-Biological Father	SF-Subject Father	OC-Other Child
MGM-Maternal Grand Mother	MGF-Maternal Grand Father	FF-Foster Father
PGM-Paternal Grand Mother	PGF-Paternal Grand Father	DCP-Day Care Provider
MGGM-Maternal Great Grand Mother	MGGF-Maternal Great Grand Father	PGGF-Paternal Great Grand Father
PGGM-Paternal Great Grand Mother	MA/MU-Maternal Aunt/Maternal Uncle	PA/PU-Paternal Aunt/Paternal Uncle
FM-Foster Mother	SS-Surviving Sibling	PS-Parent Sub
CH/CHN-Child/Children	OA-Other Adult	
Contacts		
LE-Law Enforcement	CW-Case Worker	CP-Case Planner
Dr.-Doctor	ME-Medical Examiner	EMS-Emergency Medical Services
DC-Day Care	FD-Fire Department	BM-Biological Mother
CPS-Child Protective Services	DA-District Attorney	
Allegations		
FX-Fractures	II-Internal Injuries	L/B/W-Lacerations/Bruises/Welts
S/D/S-Swelling/Dislocation/Sprains	C/T/S-Choking/Twisting/Shaking	B/S-Burns/Scalding
P/Nx-Poisoning/ Noxious Substance	XCP-Excessive Corporal Punishment	PD/AM-Parent's Drug Alcohol Misuse
CD/A-Child's Drug/Alcohol Use	LMC-Lack of Medical Care	EdN-Educational Neglect
EN-Emotional Neglect	SA-Sexual Abuse	M/FTTH-Malnutrition/Failure-to-thrive
IF/C/S-Inadequate Food/ Clothing/ Shelter	IG-Inadequate Guardianship	LS-Lack of Supervision
Ab-Abandonment	OTH/COI-Other	SXTF-Sex Trafficking
Miscellaneous		
IND-Indicated	UNF-Unfounded	SO-Sexual Offender
Sub-Substantiated	Unsub-Unsubstantiated	DV-Domestic Violence
LDSS-Local Department of Social Service	ACS-Administration for Children's Services	NYPD-New York City Police Department
PPRS-Purchased Preventive Rehabilitative Services	TANF-Temporary Assistance to Needy Families	FC-Foster Care
MH-Mental Health	ER-Emergency Room	COS-Court Ordered Services
OP-Order of Protection	RAP-Risk Assessment Profile	FASP-Family Assessment Plan
FAR-Family Assessment Response	Hx-History	Tx-Treatment
CAC-Child Advocacy Center	PIP-Program Improvement Plan	yo- year(s) old
CPR-Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation		

Case Information

Report Type: Child Deceased
Age: 6 year(s)
Jurisdiction: Kings
Gender: Female
Date of Death: 02/07/2025
Initial Date OCFS Notified: 02/07/2025

Presenting Information

An SCR report alleged on 02/07/25, before 1:35 PM, the mother held the 6-year-old child under water for more than 20 minutes, killing her. At about 1:35 PM, the father returned home, found the child was not breathing and he called 911. By 1:38 PM, first responders had arrived and began CPR. The child had bloodshot eyes, showed signs of struggle and the mother was soaked. CPR continued while the child was transported to the hospital at 1:53 PM and she was pronounced deceased at 2:52 PM.

Executive Summary

This report concerns the death of the 6-year-old child that occurred on 02/07/25. A report was made to the SCR on the same day with allegations that the mother held the child under water, resulting in her death. At the time of the death, the child resided with her parents. The father had 2 other children who resided outside of the home. Their ages remained unknown. They were assessed to be safe in the care of their mother.

The Administration for Children's Services (ACS) coordinated investigative efforts with law enforcement upon receipt of the report. The record reflected the mother was arrested for assault, recklessly causing serious injury with a weapon, acting in a manner injuring a child less than 17, and reckless endangerment. The district attorney's office anticipated more charges would be filed. An autopsy was performed; however, was not yet available at the time of this writing.

The father was interviewed, and he reported he was not home at the time of the fatal incident. The father received a call from the paternal grandfather, notifying him of the situation. The father and paternal grandfather went to the home to discover the child lifeless on the bathroom floor. The father went to the corner store and called 911. EMS responded to the home and transported the child to the hospital where she was pronounced deceased. The mother told the father that the child was alive, and the police would not believe her.

ACS interviewed collateral contacts including law enforcement, the paternal grandparents, paternal aunt and hospital staff. The hospital staff reported the child was estimated to have been in the bathtub for approximately 20 minutes. Upon arrival to the hospital, the child was hypothermic, did not show signs of gross traumatic injury and had sub conjunctional hemorrhage in one eye. There were no concerns for the mother's mental health prior to the death.

The mother was incarcerated following the death. She was unable to be interviewed by ACS as she had retained legal defense.

The allegations of Inadequate Guardianship and DOA/Fatality were appropriately substantiated. The Investigation Conclusion Narrative stated the mother intentionally drowned the child in the bathtub and claimed that she was baptizing her.

ACS completed required reports timely and with accuracy. Progress notes were entered timely, and all regulatory requirements were met. ACS provided the family with referrals for bereavement counseling; it remained unknown if they utilized the referral. Funeral expenses were provided by the child's school. The investigation was closed timely on 03/31/25.

Findings Related to the CPS Investigation of the Fatality

Safety Assessment:

- **Was sufficient information gathered to make the decision recorded on the:**
  - **Safety assessment due at the time of determination?** N/A

Determination:

- **Was sufficient information gathered to make determination(s) for all allegations as well as any others identified in the course of the investigation?** Yes, sufficient information was gathered to determine all allegations.
- **Was the determination made by the district to unfound or indicate appropriate?** Yes

Explain:
Safety Assessments were not required as there were no surviving children listed on the case. The decision to close the case was appropriate.

Was the decision to close the case appropriate? Yes

Was casework activity commensurate with appropriate and relevant statutory or regulatory requirements? Yes

Was there sufficient documentation of supervisory consultation? Yes, the case record has detail of the consultation.

Explain:
Casework activity was commensurate with case circumstances.

Required Actions Related to the Fatality

Are there Required Actions related to the compliance issue(s)? ☐Yes ☒No

Fatality-Related Information and Investigative Activities

Incident Information

Date of Death: 02/07/2025 **Time of Death:** 02:52 PM

Time of fatal incident, if different than time of death: 01:00 PM

County where fatality incident occurred: Kings

Was 911 or local emergency number called? Yes
Time of Call: Unknown
Did EMS respond to the scene? Yes
At time of incident leading to death, had child used and/or ingested alcohol or drugs? Unknown
Child's activity at time of incident:

- ☐ Sleeping
- ☐ Working
- ☐ Driving / Vehicle occupant
- ☐ Playing
- ☐ Eating
- ☒ Unknown
- ☐ Other

Total number of deaths at incident event:

Children ages 0-18: 1
Adults: 0

Household Composition at time of Fatality

Household	Relationship	Role	Gender	Age
Deceased Child's Household	Deceased Child	Alleged Victim	Female	6 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Father	No Role	Male	37 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Mother	Alleged Perpetrator	Female	26 Year(s)

LDSS Response

On 02/07/25, ACS received the fatality report from the SCR. Within the first 24 hours of the investigation, ACS contacted the source of the report, notified the medical examiner and district attorney's offices of the death, completed a CPS history check, and coordinated investigative efforts with law enforcement.

Law enforcement noted that when they arrived at the home, fire fighters were attending to the child. According to law enforcement, the mother was "saying crazy stuff." The mother's clothes were soaked, the child was nude, and there were bubbles in the bathtub. Law enforcement reported the mother said that she was God reincarnated, and the child was alive.

The paternal grandmother was interviewed. She reported receiving a video call from the mother around 1:00 PM on 02/07/25. At that time, the grandmother observed the child submerged in the bathtub and she appeared to be lifeless. The grandmother noted the mother had her hand on the child's chest and appeared to be holding her down. The child was purple. The mother was stating that "the baby is ok" and that she was being baptized. The grandmother was out of the country, and notified the grandfather, who went to the home.

The father reported that he was out of the home at the time of the fatal incident. He received a call from the paternal grandfather inquiring where he was. The father went home, and observed the mother was drenched and that the child was lifeless on the bathroom floor. He attempted to revive the child and reported water came out of the child's mouth. The father ran to the corner store to call 911. The father reported the mother was "aggressive" and she was "speaking nonsense." The father stated that he had brought the mother to counseling providers prior to the death as she claimed to have prior trauma to work through; however, she did not receive treatment. The father did not believe the mother had a pre-existing mental health condition.

A paternal aunt was interviewed. She reported that on 02/07/25 around 5:10 AM, the mother sent her messages on Instagram. The messages said to pray for the child because the devil wanted the child, and that there were demons in the paternal grandmother. The aunt tried to call the father, but his phone was shut off. The mother later called the grandmother on video chat and the child was purple. At that time, the mother was holding the child down and said that she will save the child. The aunt reported being in a state of shock, as she believed the mother was a great mother.

The district attorney's office reported the mother was indicted on the charges on 02/14/25 and that additional charges were anticipated. The case was transferred to the Supreme Court and the next court date would be held on 05/15/25.

Official Manner and Cause of Death

Official Manner: Pending
Primary Cause of Death: Pending
Person Declaring Official Manner and Cause of Death: Unknown

Multidisciplinary Investigation/Review

Was the fatality investigation conducted by a Multidisciplinary Team (MDT)? Yes

Was the fatality referred to an OCFS approved Child Fatality Review Team? No
Comments: There is not an OCFS-approved Child Fatality Review Team in the New York City Region.

SCR Fatality Report Summary

Alleged Victim(s)	Alleged Perpetrator(s)	Allegation(s)	Allegation Outcome
070770 - Deceased Child, Female, 6 Year(s)	070772 - Mother, Female, 26 Year(s)	DOA / Fatality	Substantiated
070770 - Deceased Child, Female, 6 Year(s)	070772 - Mother, Female, 26 Year(s)	Inadequate Guardianship	Substantiated

CPS Fatality Casework/Investigative Activities

	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
All children observed?	☐	☐	☒	☐
When appropriate, children were interviewed?	☐	☐	☒	☐
Alleged subject(s) interviewed face-to-face?	☐	☒	☐	☐
All 'other persons named' interviewed face-to-face?	☐	☐	☒	☐
Contact with source?	☒	☐	☐	☐
All appropriate Collaterals contacted?	☒	☐	☐	☐

Was a death-scene investigation performed?	☒	☐	☐	☐
Was there discussion with all parties (youth, other household members, and staff) who were present that day (if nonverbal, observation and comments in case notes)?	☒	☐	☐	☐
Coordination of investigation with law enforcement?	☒	☐	☐	☐
Was there timely entry of progress notes and other required documentation?	☒	☐	☐	☐

Fatality Safety Assessment Activities

	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
Were there any surviving siblings or other children in the household?	☒	☐	☐	☐
Was there an adequate assessment of impending or immediate danger to surviving siblings/other children in the household named in the report:				
Within 24 hours?	☐	☐	☒	☐
At 7 days?	☒	☐	☐	☐
At 30 days?	☒	☐	☐	☐
Was there an approved Initial Safety Assessment for all surviving siblings/ other children in the household within 24 hours?	☐	☐	☒	☐
Are there any safety issues that need to be referred back to the local district?	☐	☒	☐	☐
When safety factors were present that placed the surviving siblings/other children in the household in impending or immediate danger of serious harm, were the safety interventions, including parent/caretaker actions adequate?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Explain:
The siblings resided outside of the home and were not named on the report. The siblings were assessed to be safe in the care of their mother.

Fatality Risk Assessment / Risk Assessment Profile

	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
Was the risk assessment/RAP adequate in this case?	☒	☐	☐	☐
During the course of the investigation, was sufficient information gathered to assess risk to all surviving siblings/other children in the household?	☒	☐	☐	☐
Was there an adequate assessment of the family's need for services?	☒	☐	☐	☐

Did the protective factors in this case require the LDSS to file a petition in Family Court at any time during or after the investigation?	☐	☒	☐	☐
Were appropriate/needed services offered in this case	☒	☐	☐	☐

Placement Activities in Response to the Fatality Investigation

	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
Did the safety factors in the case show the need for the surviving siblings/other children in the household be removed or placed in foster care at any time during this fatality investigation?	☐	☒	☐	☐
Were there surviving children in the household that were removed as a result of information uncovered during the fatality investigation?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Explain as necessary:
No children needed to be removed as a result of the fatality investigation.

Legal Activity Related to the Fatality

Was there legal activity as a result of the fatality investigation?

☐Family Court ☒Criminal Court ☐Order of Protection

Criminal Charge: Assault **Degree:** NA

Date Charges Filed:	Against Whom?	Date of Disposition:	Disposition:
Pending	The Mother	Pending	Unknown

Comments:	The mother was arrested and indicted for assault, recklessly causing serious injury with a weapon, acting in a manner injuring a child less than 17, and reckless endangerment in the second degree. The outcome of the charges remained pending.

Services at the Time of and/or in Response to the Fatality

Services	Received	Offered, but Refused	Offered, Unknown if Used	Not Offered	Needed but Unavailable	N/A
Bereavement counseling	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
Economic support	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Funeral arrangements	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Housing assistance	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

Mental health services	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
Foster care	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Health care	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Legal services	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Family planning	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Homemaking Services	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Parenting Skills	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Domestic Violence Services	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Early Intervention	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Alcohol/Substance abuse	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Child Care	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Intensive case management	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Family or others as safety resources	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Preventive Services	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Other	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

Were services offered to and/or received by siblings or other children in the household at the time of and/or in response to the fatality? Yes
Explain:
Bereavement counseling referrals were provided to the siblings' mother. It remained unknown if the services were utilized.

Were services offered to and/or received by parent(s) and other care givers at the time of and/or in response to the fatality? Yes
Explain:
The father and family were provided with referrals for grief counseling. It remained unknown if they utilized the referrals.

History Prior to the Fatality

Child Information

Did the child have a history of alleged child abuse/maltreatment? No
Was the child acutely ill during the two weeks before death? No

CPS - Investigative History Three Years Prior to the Fatality

There is no CPS investigative history in NYS within three years prior to the fatality.

CPS - Investigative History More Than Three Years Prior to the Fatality

There was no CPS investigative history more than three years prior to the fatality.

Known CPS History Outside of NYS

There is no known CPS history outside of New York.

Legal History Within Three Years Prior to the Fatality

Was there any legal activity within three years prior to the fatality investigation? There was no legal activity.

Recommended Action(s)

Are there any recommended actions for local or state administrative or policy changes? ☐Yes ☒No

Are there any recommended prevention activities resulting from the review? ☐Yes ☒No