Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 102517692

County of Child's Residence: TARRANT

Gender: Male

Age: 3 Year(s) 7 Month(s)

Date of Death: 05/13/2024

On the date of the fatality, the child was not in DFPS conservatorship and was living with the child's parent, a managing conservator, a legal guardian or other person entititled to the child's possession.

Child's Name: Amerson,Zyair

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 5/11/2024, 5/11/2024, 05/27/2024 - three reports merged into one investigation

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received two reports with concerns the deceased child was unresponsive and transported to the hospital by the family. The child had a brain bleed and several bruises all over his body. The child and his three siblings were in the care of the mother's ex-paramour, an aunt, and two uncles. Prior to the child being taken to the hospital, the mother's ex-paramour slammed the child on the floor and the aunt and two uncles either witnessed the incident or were aware of the incident. There were concerns the family initially lied about the cause of the child's injuries. A third report was received after the child's death, with concerns the siblings disclosed of ongoing physical abuse to the deceased child and the siblings by the mother's ex-paramour, maternal grandmother, aunt, and uncles.

The Department's investigation determined the mother, mother's paramour, maternal grandmother, maternal aunt, and two maternal uncles were the child's and three siblings' caregivers. The Department obtained information from law enforcement, medical, and the family and based on the information gathered, all the caregivers participated in one way or another in the abuse and neglect of the deceased child and the three siblings. The children were exposed to multiple acts of violence in the home by several caregivers. The mother's ex-paramour injured the deceased child in the home which resulted in the child's death. The deceased child died while in the hospital of the injuries he sustained. The three siblings were present and within close proximity at the time of the abuse. The other adults were present, participated, and/or did not intervene or contact law enforcement or medial personal to intervene. The mother left her children in the care of her ex-paramour, adult siblings, and the maternal grandmother. Although there is variation in the information regarding the time and frequency the mother saw the children, based on the nature and reoccurring violence in the home, and the injuries observed on three of the children the mother failed

to protect the children. The two verbal siblings were found to have bruises and marks on their bodies that were well beyond reasonable discipline. The verbal siblings disclosed multiple acts of physical abuse to themselves, to the deceased child, and to the youngest sibling.

The medical examiner completed an autopsy; however, the results were pending at the time the Department's investigation closed.

Law enforcement conducted an investigation and the aunt, and two uncles were arrested and charged with Endangering a Child and the mother's ex-paramour was arrested for the murder of the deceased child.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed the deceased child's mother, the mother's ex-paramour, the maternal grandmother, the maternal aunt, and two maternal uncles committed Physical Abuse to the deceased child which led to his death.

The Department confirmed the deceased child's mother, the mother's ex-paramour, the maternal grandmother, the maternal aunt, and two maternal uncles committed Physical Abuse to the deceased child's three siblings.

The Department confirmed the deceased child's mother, the mother's ex-paramour, the maternal grandmother, the maternal aunt, and two maternal uncles committed Neglectful Supervision to the deceased child and the child's three siblings.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 05/11/2024: Safety Assessment - Initial: Unsafe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Very High

Case Action:

Removal/Subcare

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The family agreed to services offered as part of the legal case.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The Department sought and was granted Temporary Managing Conservatorship of the surviving siblings who were placed in a kinship home.

If one or more children were previously removed from the home, for each conservatorship episode, summarize dates of conservatorship and type of placement at the end of conservatorship:

Not applicable.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 10/10/2020

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report with concerns the mother was in the hospital giving birth to the deceased child and the mother admitted to marijuana use in January 2020.

The Department's investigation determined the mother denied using marijuana after becoming aware of her pregnancy and she denied using in the presence of the two older siblings. The mother took a urine drug test and was negative. The deceased child's meconium was negative.

Investigation Findings:

The Department did not confirm the mother committed Neglectful Supervision to the deceased child and the two siblings.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 10/12/2020: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe
2.) 10/21/2020: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe
3.) 11/19/2020: Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Moderate

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The mother accepted the evaluation services offered.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

Not applicable.

The investigation was closed.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 7/27/2021, 7/30/2021 - two reports merged into one investigation

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received two reports with concerns the deceased child and the deceased child's older sibling were in the care of family members and when the mother went to pick up the children, there was a verbal altercation between the mother and a family member. The children's father arrived, and it is alleged he became physically violent with the mother and pulled a handgun on the mother. The mother left the scene prior to the arrival of officers.

The Department's investigation determined the children were not verbal enough to provide details and the family was minimally cooperative. The family initially agreed to complete services but then declined them. The mother agreed to be protective of the children.

Investigation Findings:

The Department was unable to determine if the deceased child's father committed Neglectful Supervision to the deceased child and his older sibling.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 08/03/2021: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe
2.) 08/26/2021: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe
3.) 12/10/2021: Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: High

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The mother initially accepted services and referrals provided and then declined them.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The Department referred the mother to Family Based Safety Services. At the joint staffing, it was determined there were no current safety concerns for the children and the mother had support from relatives who she was residing with. Family Based Safety Services closed the referral and their case prior to the investigation being closed as on-going services were not needed. The concerns identified in the investigation were not serious enough to warrant legal intervention and the investigation was closed.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 12/23/2022

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report with concerns for the deceased child's newborn sibling who had significant medical needs and concerns for the lack of participation with the feeding of the newborn. There were concerns of the smell of marijuana in the hospital room and the mother's ex-paramour, her paramour at the time, reported he only smoked cigarettes . The newborn sibling was negative on drug tests at the child?s birth.

The Department's investigation determined the deceased child's mother has a support network including the maternal grandmother and collateral's denied having concerns for the children. The mother tested negative on a drug test. The mother's ex-paramour was not around the children and couldn't be located to complete a drug test.

Investigation Findings:

The Department did not confirm the mother committed Neglectful Supervision to the deceased child and the deceased child's three siblings.

The Department was unable to determine if the mother's ex-paramour committed Neglectful Supervision to the deceased child and the deceased child's three siblings.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 12/27/2022: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe
2.) 04/27/2023: Safety Assessment - Case Closure: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: High

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The mother declined services offered and legal intervention was not warranted.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

Not applicable.

The investigation was closed.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 7/9/2012

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report with concerns for the deceased child's maternal grandmother and grandfather's children due to the grandmother and grandfather using drugs.

The Department's investigation determined the family was initially living in a motel and looking for a new residence. Although initial contact and entry was declined, the family did allow interviews several days later. The grandmother's five children were seen and some made statements of the grandfather being drunk and saying derogatory names. Follow up contact with the family was unsuccessful and the Department was not able to complete the investigation as they family could no longer be located.

Investigation Findings:

The Department was unable to complete the investigation to determine if the maternal grandmother and grandfather committed Neglectful Supervision to the two youngest children in the home.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:
Safety Assessment: Conditionally Safe/Safety Plan Completed
Risk Assessment Risk Finding: Risk Indicated

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

No services or referrals offered.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The Department attempted to refer and transfer the case to Family-Based Safety Services however the family became uncooperative and could not be located for an assessment for services.

The investigation was closed.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 8/12/2016

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report with concerns law enforcement and Emergency Medical Services responded to a residence after one of the deceased child's maternal grandmother's children was found to have road rash and a cut over her eye. The child gave varying stories as to what caused the injuries, but indicated she was assaulted and jumped out of a stranger?s vehicle. The child would not provide any information for the relative she claimed to be living with and there were concerns about her mother's ability to supervise her.

The Department's investigation determined the child provided false information and false identity. It was determined the reported child was 18 years old and not a child.

Investigation Findings:

The Department administratively closed concerns the maternal grandmother committed Neglectful Supervision of her child as the child was an adult.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

No services or referrals provided.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

Not applicable.

The investigation was closed.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 3/4/2017, 3/6/2017 - two reports merged into one investigation

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report with concerns after one of the deceased child's maternal grandmother's children made outcries that she had been raped and had not been in school for more than 5 years, and that she has been kicked out of the home and is treated like a slave. The parents have threatened to take the child to the psychological ward if she does not stop telling people outside the home the family?s business. A second intake was received with concerns this same child was self-harming as a result of the home environment. The were also concerns a home member was reportedly drinking to excess and is verbally abusive.

The Department's investigation determined the family was minimally cooperative. The children in the home that were interviewed denied abuse or neglect however the child of concern declined to be interviewed after her father told her to tell the worker she did not want to be interviewed.

Investigation Findings:

The Department was unable to determine if the maternal grandmother and grandfather committed Medical Neglect and Emotional Abuse to the child of concern.

The Department was unable to determine if an unknown individual committed Sexual Abuse of the child of concern.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 03/07/2017: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Moderate

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

No services or referrals provided.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

Not applicable.

The investigation was closed.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 5/26/2021, 5/26/2021, 6/4/2021, 6/8/2021, 7/29/2021, 9/28/2021 - six reports merged into

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received six reports with concerns for the deceased child's maternal grandmother's children. The initial two reports stated concerns the grandmother's paramour exposed himself to one of the children, the grandmother was engaged in prostitution and was pushing her paramour onto the child. There were concerns the child is self-harming and has been recently hospitalized. Two additional reports were received (6/4/2021, 6/8/2021) regarding the child having been sexually abused by the grandmother's paramour on multiple occasions and with additional concerns for the grandmother wanting the child to engage in prostitution. Additional reports for similar concerns were received on 7/19/2021 and 9/28/2021, with concerns for the child?s mental health as a result of ongoing sexual abuse.

The Department's investigation determined the child made an outcry of sexual abuse by the grandmother's paramour. The other children in the home made no outcries of abuse or neglect, and there was no indication of the grandmother receiving any type of compensation for behaviors in the home. The grandmother admitted to being aware of one incident of sexual abuse, but no others. The child who made the sexual abuse outcry was staying temporarily at a shelter. At closure, this child had been on runaway status since the onset of the investigation; although it was believed she was back in the motel with the grandmother, this was not able to be confirmed.

Investigation Findings:

The Department did not confirm the maternal grandmother committed Neglectful Supervision to her children.

The Department did not confirm the maternal grandmother, or her paramour committed Sex Trafficking to her child.

The Department did not confirm the grandmother's paramour committed sexual abuse to two of the children in the home.

The Department confirmed the grandmother's paramour committed to sexual abuse to one of the children in the home.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 05/26/2021: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe with plan
2.) 06/11/2021: Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Moderate

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The mother agreed to accept referral information for services for her child in the event she returned back to the home.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The grandmother agreed not allow the paramour to reside in the home or have any contact with her children.

The investigation was closed.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 2/16/2023

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report after law enforcement conducted a traffic stop and located the deceased child's maternal grandmother, her 17-year-old child, and an unknown black male. The child had previously run away from a group home on 6/13/2021, where she was residing due to allegations of sex trafficking.

The Department's investigation determined the child was interviewed and denied the allegations. The grandmother and her paramour were still in a relationship, but the children denied being alone with the paramour and made no outcries of abuse or neglect. Although the grandmother was confirmed as a known prostitute with law enforcement, there was no information to support the child was being trafficked by the grandmother. The motel where the family was residing expressed no concerns for the family.

Investigation Findings:

The Department did not confirm the maternal grandmother committed Sex Trafficking to her child.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 02/17/2023: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Moderate

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

No services or referrals offered.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

Not applicable.

The investigation was closed.

Other Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 5/9/2010, 5/10/2010 - two reports merged into one investigation

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received two reports with concerns the deceased child's maternal grandmother's child ran away to her paternal grandmother?s home due to the way her father (the deceased child's maternal grandfather) treats her. The father reportedly threatened to kill the child and paternal grandmother and beat the child when/if she returns home. There were also concerns for domestic violence between the parents while the children were present. The child reportedly has a fading bruise on her shin where her father hit her more than 4 weeks prior to the report. The father has bashed the child?s head into a wall, pulled her hair, and physically abused her. The father also drinks alcohol daily and smokes marijuana in the home; he does not allow the children to attend school and is very controlling of the child.

The Department's investigation determined the oldest child made an outcry of ongoing domestic violence and physical abuse in the home. The parents denied all allegations, citing the child?s behavior as a catalyst for the conflict in the home. The parents tested negative for all substances in an oral swab, and no police calls to the home were located regarding domestic violence. The child was not observed with any injuries, nor were the other children in the home. The other children in the home made no outcries and collaterals expressed no concerns.

Investigation Findings:

The Department was unable to determine if the parent's committed Neglectful Supervision to the children.

The Department did not confirm the maternal grandfather committed Physical Abuse against any of the children.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Risk Assessment: Safety Assessment: Conditionally Safe/Safety Plan Completed
Risk Assessment Risk Finding: Risk Indicated

Case Action:

Family Preservation

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

The family agreed to services and referrals provided through the Department and a referral was made to Family-Based Safety Services.

Other Services:

Not applicable

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

A Safety Plan was implemented in which the parents agreed to have the children medically assessed, refrain from substance abuse, and work services with the Department. The case was transferred to Family-Based Safety Services and the grandmother successfully engaged in all recommended services and the family was no longer living with the father. The case was closed as risk reduced with the family still residing at the shelter and receiving services.

Other Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 7/7/2020

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report with concerns the deceased child's maternal grandmother's children were smoking marijuana in the residence parking lot daily and the grandmother is aware and not trying to stop them. The grandmother's child has a child of her own and has been involved in a domestic altercation with the father of her child.

The Department's investigation determined there was no evidence to support marijuana use by the children. The complex management provided no concerns or police call outs. The reporter stated there were concerns based on their observance, but the home composition did not match. It is believed the reporter may be reporting based on the grandmother's adult children, who have reportedly not been to the home in over 2 months. The children in the home have not made any outcries of drug use and there are no current concerns the grandmother is using drugs.

Investigation Findings:

Not applicable as this was an Alternative Response case.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Risk Assessment: 07/10/2020: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe
07/24/2020: Safety Assessment - Case Closure: Safe
Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: High

Case Action:

Closed

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

The family accepted referrals to substance abuse education, but had not started any services prior to the Department's case closing.

Other Services:

The family didn't agree to services.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

Not applicable.

Other Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 12/13/2018, 3/7/2019, 3/7/2019 - three reports merged into one investigation.

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report with concerns the deceased child's sibling presented at the emergency room with lacerations to the face from a dog bite. The mother failed to follow up with appointments for vaccinations concerning the dog bite. The Department received two additional reports concerning possible marijuana use by the mother during her pregnancy with another of the deceased child's sibling. This sibling?s meconium was positive for marijuana.

The Department's investigation determined the mother took the sibling to the hospital when she was bitten by a random dog. The mother initially failed to take the sibling for her second, third, and fourth rabies vaccines as recommended; however, she eventually took the child who received recommended vaccines. Medical staff

stated the sibling was still protected by the vaccines despite them not being given on schedule. The mother's urine was negative at the other sibling's birth, but the sibling's meconium results were positive for marijuana at 16 mg. The mother denied using marijuana while being knowingly pregnant but admitted to using in September or October 2018. She stated the older sibling was not with her when she was using marijuana.

Investigation Findings:

The Department did not confirm the mother and the older sibling's father committed Medical Neglect to the sibling.

The Department did not confirm the mother committed Neglectful Supervision to the older sibling and the newborn sibling.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Risk Assessment: 1.) 12/13/2018: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe
2.) 03/18/2019: Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Safe
Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Moderate

Case Action:

Closed

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

The family accepted a pack-n-play provided by the Department.

Other Services:

Not applicable.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

Not applicable.

Other Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 8/26/2010

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report during an open Family-Based Safety Services case with concerns for the deceased child's maternal grandmother's children not receiving adequate medical and dental care. The 4-year old's teeth appeared grey and black with decay. The family is transient and is in and out of the shelter and motels due to domestic violence between the grandmother and her paramour. The grandmother appears to be in a domestic violence relationship currently with her new paramour but has not been forthcoming with details about the violence. The grandmother?s personal hygiene appears lax, but it is unclear whether she is using drugs. The children are not enrolled in school.

The Department's investigation determined a child made outcries of the grandmother's paramour slapping and hitting the grandmother and calling her derogatory names, but no police reports related to domestic violence were located. One of the children also stated the paramour had threatened to kill the grandmother. The child was observed to have several broken and decayed teeth, and the grandmother didn't seek medical care. The grandmother had active Medicaid for each of the children and had been notified they would require dental procedures, but she failed to bring the children for appointments because she did not want them strapped down

or put under anesthesia.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed the maternal grandmother committed Medical Neglect to her child.

The Department was unable to determine if the maternal grandmother committed Neglectful Supervision to her children.

The Department confirmed the maternal grandmother's paramour committed Neglectful Supervision to the children.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Risk Assessment: Safety Assessment: Conditionally Safe/Safety Plan Completed
Risk Assessment Risk Finding: Factors Controlled

Case Action:

Closed

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Not applicable as the family was already involved with Family-Based Safety Services, which they agreed to continue accepting.

Other Services:

Not applicable as family already involved in services.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

A Safety Plan was implemented in which the grandmother agreed to not allow the children unsupervised around her ex-paramour and no contact with her current paramour who was committing family violence in the home. She also agreed to follow recommendations of providers and cooperate with Family-Based Safety Services.

Note: This report was prepared on 05/12/2026 and does not include corrections or updates, if any, that may be subsequently made to DFPS data on or after the date this report was prepared.