Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 102720861

County of Child's Residence: HENDERSON

Gender: Male

Age: 6 Year(s) 5 Month(s)

Date of Death: 11/26/2022

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: Sullivan,Noah

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 11/26/2022; 11/29/2022

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received two reports on November 26, 2022, of the deceased child, the deceased child's mother and deceased child's siblings being exposed to carbon monoxide in their home from a generator running in the home. The child was pronounced dead on scene and the mother and siblings were transported to the hospital by emergency services. Another report was received on November 26, 2022, stating the mother did not have custody of the children.

The Department's investigation determined the mother's paramour set-up and turned-on the generator in the home because the electricity was not connected to the home. The paramour then left the home where the mother, the child and the siblings staying. It was learned the paramour worked with generators and knew the dangers of leaving a generator running in an enclosed space. He remained out of the home till late at night. When he returned to the home, he chose to sleep in his truck, and went to a store the next morning without going inside the home. When he returned to the home, the paramour found the child, the mother and the siblings non-responsive. The Department also learned there was a conservatorship case in Florida where the deceased child's aunt and uncle was granted guardianship of the mother's children due to neglect by the mother. The Florida court records show the mother could have only supervised contact with the children. The aunt and uncle were aware of the mother's home not having electricity and the uncle loaned the paramour the generator.

Law enforcement investigated the fatality, and the criminal case was presented to the District Attorney. When the Department's investigation closed, no criminal charges had been filed.

The medical examiner conducted an autopsy of the deceased child, but the final cause and manner of death were not available when the Department's investigation closed. The preliminary results suspected the death was caused by carbon monoxide poisoning.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed allegations the deceased child's mother committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child which led to the child's death. The mother disregarded the court order stating she was to have supervised contact with the children by bringing the children to her home. The mother also was aware there was no electricity and allowed a running generator to be left on inside of the home.

The Department confirmed allegations the deceased child's mother's paramour committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child which led to the death of the deceased child. The paramour worked with generators, but still left a running generator inside the home where the deceased child, the mother and siblings were sleeping for the night. He left the home and did not return until the following morning.

The Department confirmed allegations the deceased child's aunt and uncle committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child. They were aware of the Florida court order granting them guardianship of the children and the stipulation the mother was to be supervised around her children.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 11/26/2022: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe
2.) 12/16/2022: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Very High

Case Action:

Close

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Counseling and Evaluation

Other Services:

The family was referred to counseling and the aunt is ensuring the siblings participate in counseling though the local Child Advocacy Center.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The aunt and uncle are fully aware of what the Florida court orders state and are supervising all contact between the children and the mother.

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:

11/03/2020 - 07/26/2021 - Deceased child and siblings were in care in the state of Texas through an Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) from Florida. It is unknown when the children went into care in Florida. Other than monitoring the placement, there were no services provided by Texas.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 09/19/2019

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report of substance abuse and domestic violence by the deceased child's paramour.

The Department's investigation determined the paramour was using drugs in the home and was the aggressor of domestic violence against his partner at the time.

Law Enforcment completed an investigation and arrested the paramour. The paramour was convicted of Evading Arrest Detention with Previous Conviction Felony and Assault Family/Household Member with Previous Conviction Felony.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed allegations the deceased child's mother's paramour committed neglectful supervision of the paramour's partner's children. The paramour placed his partner's children in danger by using illegal substances and assaulting their parent.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 09/10/2019: Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: High

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The family was referred to counseling services and the deceased child's mother paramour's partner agreed to continue with counseling for the children.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The paramour was arrested and ultimately convicted. The paramour's partner ended the relationship and had a strong support system who are willing and able to help protect.

Other Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s):

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

Investigation Findings:

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

Note: This report was prepared on 10/20/2023 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.