Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 102753524

County of Child's Residence: HARRIS

Gender: Female

Age: 16 Year(s) 7 Month(s)

Date of Death: 03/25/2024

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: Perez,Nayeli

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 03/25/2024

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report notifying it of a fatal event after law enforcement responded to a home where a deceased child had been found by her third unrelated caregiver. The child has special needs and wears a diaper. She had welts on her person from being hit with a belt. The caregiver admitted that she disciplined the child. There is no cause of death at this time.

The Department's investigation determined that the deceased child was residing with caregiver #3 and the caregiver's two younger children. The child's mother was reportedly deceased, and her father was unknown. The child was placed with caregiver #3 in September 2022 during the Department's investigation on the child's previous unrelated caregiver (caregiver #2). The child remained with caregiver #3 after the previous caregiver's case closed. Caregiver #3 withdrew the child from school and was not addressing the child's mental health needs. The deceased child was reportedly engaging in self-harming behaviors and caregiver #3 did not seek medical or psychiatric treatment for the child. The child would defecate and urinate on her clothes or in a bucket located in her bedroom. She remained isolated in her bedroom and was not interacting with any other family or friends. Caregiver #3 admitted to hitting the child with a belt on different parts of her body when she could not manage her behaviors. According to the caregiver, she had left the home with her two younger children and when she returned hours later she discovered the child unresponsive. The medical staff found that the child had wounds in various stages of healing all over her body. The wounds were not self-inflicted and many of them were consistent with belt marks. Caregiver #3 made no other admission of abuse or neglect. The caregiver initially agreed to allow her two children to be in the care of their father. However, the children's father tested positive for illicit substances. Caregiver #3 and her children's father agreed to

secure a parental child safety placement with a family friend to ensure her children's safety. They also agreed to accept the services offered by Family-Based Safety Services.

The medical examiner completed an autopsy, but the final report was not available when the Department completed its investigation. The preliminary results indicated the deceased child sustained innumerable physical injuries in different stages of healing all over her body. The scarring noted on the child's body indicated that the injuries had taken place over several months. The deceased child also had recent injuries to her external genitalia, but no signs of internal or penetration injuries. The cause and manner of death were pending.

The law enforcement investigation was pending at the time the Department's investigation closed. They were waiting on the final autopsy before pursuing any charges.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed allegations that caregiver #3 committed medical neglect of the deceased child, which led to the child's death.

The Department confirmed allegations that caregiver #3 committed physical abuse and neglectful supervision of the deceased child.

The Department did not confirm allegations that caregiver #3 committed neglectful supervision of her two children.

The Department was unable to determine if caregiver #3's paramour committed neglectful supervision of his two children.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:
03/27/2024 - Safety Assessment - Initial - Safe with plan
07/01/2024 - Safety Assessment - Initial - Safe (parent child safety placement's household)
Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Very High

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Family Preservation

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The unrelated caregiver #3 agreed to accept the services offered by Family-Based Safety Services.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The unrelated caregiver #3 agreed to secure a Parental Child Safety Placement of her children to ensure their safety while the family participated in services offered.

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): 01/23/2018

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report notifying it of concerns with the deceased child's unrelated caregiver #3 smoking marijuana around her infant child in the home. The caregiver is engaging in physical altercations with her paramour while holding her infant child. The caregiver has mental health diagnosis and is not taking her prescribed medications.

The Department's investigation determined the unrelated caregiver #3 shared the home with her infant child and the child's father. The caregiver confirmed that she stopped taking her psychotropic medications during her pregnancy and is not able to take them as she was breastfeeding. She admitted to smoking marijuana while her paramour was taking care of their child. She and her paramour denied engaging in any domestic violence. Her drug screening was positive for marijuana, methamphetamine and amphetamines. The paramour's drug screening was negative for any illicit drugs. The mental health provider confirmed that the caregiver is actively engaged in services to address her diagnosis. The caregiver agreed to secure a parental child safety placement for her child with a family friend and accepted the services offered by Family-Based Safety Services.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed allegations that the unrelated caregiver #3 committed neglectful supervision of her infant child.

Safety and Risk Factors Identified:
01/24/2018 - Safety Assessment - Initial - Safe
02/19/2018 - Safety Assessment - Reassessment - Safe with plan
02/20/2018 - Safety Assessment - Case Closure - Safe
Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: High

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Family Preservation

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Counseling and Evaluation

Other Services:

The unrelated caregiver #3 agreed to accept the services offered by Family-Based Safety Services.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The unrelated caregiver #3 secured a parental child safety placement of her child with a family friend and was supervised around the child.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 11/06/2020

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report notifying it of concerns with the deceased child and four unrelated children being present when two adults were engaged in a physical altercation at the home. The deceased child's first unrelated caregiver and his spouse accused each other of using drugs in front of the deceased child and their four children. The unrelated caregiver #1 is taking care of the five children while his spouse is with her new paramour.

The Department's investigation determined the deceased child was residing with the unrelated caregiver #1 and his four children. The caregiver is currently separated from his spouse and was the primary caregiver to his children and the deceased child. He referred to the deceased child as his sibling, but they were not related. The caregiver confirmed that he had been physically assaulted by his spouse's paramour and law enforcement responded to the home. He denied using any illicit substances and made no other admissions of abuse or neglect. The deceased child disclosed that her mother was deceased, and no concerns were noted with her overall care. The caregiver's four children were observed with no injuries and two of them recalled witnessing the physical altercation between their father and mother's paramour. The children and deceased child were not enrolled in school. The caregiver and his spouse initially agreed to complete drug screenings but did not complete them and moved to an undisclosed address. The family was not located after they moved.

Investigation Findings:

The Department was unable to determine if the unrelated caregiver #1 and his spouse committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child and his four children.

Safety and Risk Factors Identified:
11/12/2020 - Safety Assessment - Initial - Safe
11/12/2020 - Safety Assessment - Reassessment - Safe
03/03/2021 - Safety Assessment - Case Closure - Safe
Risk Assessment Final Risk Level - Moderate

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Close

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Counseling and Evaluation

Other Services:

The unrelated caregiver #1 and his spouse declined to accept any community resources offered.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

None

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 03/24/2009, 04/01/2009 - two reports merged into single investigation

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received two reports notifying it of concerns with the deceased child's unrelated caregiver #3 placing her grandchild with his great-grandmother. The caregiver's daughter was incarcerated and left her son in the care of the child's maternal relatives. The unrelated caregiver was concerned that the elderly caregiver's home was not suitable for the grandchild and despite having these concerns, she had left the young child in the home. The grandchild had been observed with bruising to his thigh that was reportedly inflicted by the deceased

child's caregiver.

The Department's investigation determined the unrelated caregiver #3 was taking care of her grandchild while the child's mother and father were incarcerated. The grandchild had severe developmental delays which were not being addressed by the caregiver or the child's great-grandmother. The child had been seen by medical staff with bruising to his leg and ear. The unrelated caregiver and great-grandmother could not account for how the child sustained the injury and both had access to the child prior to the injury being identified by medical staff. The Department pursued legal intervention and was granted temporary managing conservatorship of the caregiver's grandchild. The caregiver and maternal relatives did not have unsupervised access to the child after his placement in a foster home.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed allegations that the unrelated caregiver #3 committed medical neglect and physical neglect of her grandson.

The Department confirmed allegations that the great grandmother committed medical neglect and physical neglect of her great grandson.

The Department did not confirm allegations the unrelated caregiver #3 committed neglectful supervision of her grandson.

The Department confirmed allegations the mother committed neglectful supervision of her child, whom she left with the great grandmother.

The Department was unable to determine if the unrelated caregiver #3 committed physical abuse of her grandson.

The Department was unable to determine if the great grandmother committed physical abuse of her great grandson.

The Department confirmed allegations an unknown individual committed physical abuse of the grandson.

Safety and Risk Factors Identified:
04/13/2009 - Safety Assessment - Safe/ No Safety Plan Needed.
Risk Assessment Overall Risk Finding - Risk Indicated.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Removal/Subcare

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Counseling and Evaluation,Legal Services

Other Services:

The family agreed to accept the services offered by the Conservatorship department.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The unrelated caregiver #3 did not have unsupervised access to her grandchild after he was removed and placed in a foster home.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 8/21/2022, 8/22/2022, 9/17/2022, 9/24/2022

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received four reports notifying it of concerns with the deceased child's second unrelated caregiver engaging in domestic disputes in the presence of her biological child and deceased child. The unrelated caregiver #2's child was emotionally impacted by his exposure to the violence in the home and was having panic attacks. His mother was treating him aggressively by yelling and cursing at him while he was being treated at the hospital. The child had run out of his medication, and it was unknown if he was receiving psychiatric services. The deceased child was very socially withdrawn, she had anger issues and was skipping school. The unrelated caregiver #2 was not addressing the deceased child's mental health issues. The caregiver was using drugs in the home and her child handed over the drugs to law enforcement. The caregiver was arrested for possession of drugs.

The Department's investigation determined the deceased child was residing with unrelated caregiver #2 and caregiver's biological child. The caregiver referred to the deceased child as her niece, but they were not related. The caregiver was observed to be impaired as she was slurring her words and was seen with track marks on her arms during the initial interview. She confirmed she was not taking her prescribed psychotropic medications for the last year. She portrayed herself as the aggressor in the domestic disputes with her former paramour and experienced domestic violence with her child's father. According to the caregiver, the deceased child came to live with her after her aunt passed away. The deceased child recalled that she used to take prescribed medication but was not taking them while residing with the current caregiver. She denied having self-harming thoughts or engaging in self-harming behaviors. The caregiver's child had history of self-harming behaviors and disclosed that he did not feel safe in his mother's home. He believed his mother and her paramour were using drugs. He was able to retrieve bags from his home that contained methamphetamine which belonged to his mother. Law enforcement was contacted, and they arrested the caregiver for possession of drugs. The emergency mental health crisis medical team was contacted to assess both children and the caregiver at the home. The caregiver completed a drug screening and was positive for numerous illicit drugs. The caregiver's child's father agreed to secure a parental child safety placement of his child and the deceased child with family friend (unrelated caregiver #3). The unrelated caregiver #2 agreed to accept the services offered by Family-Based Safety Services.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed allegations that the unrelated caregiver #2 committed medical neglect and neglectful supervision of the deceased child.

The Department confirmed allegations that the unrelated caregiver #2 committed neglectful supervision and emotional abuse of her biological child.

Safety and Risk Factors Identified:
09/23/2022 - Safety Assessment - Initial - Safe with plan
10/11/2022 - Safety Assessment - Initial - Safe
Risk Assessment Final Risk Level - High

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Family Preservation

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Medical Resources/Assessment

Other Services:

The unrelated caregiver #2 agreed to accept the services offered by Family-Based Safety Services.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The unrelated caregiver #2 agreed to secure a parental child safety placement of her biological child and deceased child with a family friend (unrelated caregiver #3) and her paramour/spouse.

Other Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 3/10/2009

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report after there was a call for a welfare check on a missing juvenile from San Antonio. the juvenile was forcibly taken by her adult sister, who is the unrelated caregiver #3 of the deceased child. No information was known as to why the juvenile was taken. The unrelated caregiver # 3 was going to be arrested on charges of harboring a runaway.

This report was closed without assignment as it pertained to a child custody issue.

Investigation Findings:

Not applicable

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Risk Assessment: Not applicable

Case Action:

Not applicable

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Not applicable

Other Services:

Not applicable

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

Not applicable

Other Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 1/10/2006

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report concerning the unrelated caregiver # 3's three children being left alone. Law enforcement found the children playing in the parking lot and one child was in the duplex. The oldest child said they had been alone for 2 days and had no idea where their mother was. The children's father works construction and left before the children woke up. The children were transported to the local office.

The Department's investigation determined the children were not enrolled in school and were found to be filthy and unkempt. The children were not being properly cared for by the parent and all three children were removed from the mother.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed the unrelated caregiver #3 and her paramour committed neglectful supervision and physical neglect of all three children.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Risk Assessment: Safety Assessment not required by policy.
Risk Assessment Overall Risk Finding was Risk Indicated.

Case Action:

Removal/Subcare

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

The mother accepted services offered as part of the Conservatorship case.

Other Services:

none

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The Department sought and was granted Temporary Managing Conservatorship of the three children. The unrelated caregiver #3 did not complete services successfully and parental rights were terminated. The permanency goal was unrelated adoption and adoption was consummated on 12/27/2007.

Other Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 3/4/2008, 3/6/2008 - two reports merged into single investigation

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received two reports with concerns for the unrelated caregiver #3's teen daughter who was pregnant. The teen was not in school for the past year or two and had been residing with relatives for over a year after she had been kicked out of the home.

The Department's investigation determined the teen had her infant son in April. She was not bonding and left her infant with the grandmother. The teen went to reside with relatives.

Investigation Findings:

The Department did not confirm the unrelated caregiver # 3 committed neglectful supervision or medical neglect of her teen daughter.

The Department confirmed the teen daughter committed physical neglect of her infant son.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Risk Assessment: Safety Assessment: Safe/No Safety Plan Needed
Risk Assessment Overall Risk Finding: Risk Indicated

Case Action:

Family Preservation

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

The unrelated caregiver #3 agreed to accept services offered by Family-Based Safety Services.

Other Services:

None

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The case was transferred to Family-Based Safety Services. No services were offered during the case as a Family Team Meeting was held and it was determined the unrelated caregiver #3 was an appropriate caregiver for her infant grandson and her teen daughter was residing with a relative.

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.