Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 106855379

County of Child's Residence: TOM GREEN

Gender: Female

Age: 0 Year(s) 1 Month(s)

Date of Death: 02/01/2022

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: Hawthorne,Lilith

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 02/01/2022

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report of a fatal event after law enforcement officials responded to a 911 call and discovered a deceased child. Law enforcment arrived at the home at 3:30 p.m. It appeared the deceased child had been deceased for approximately 4-6 hours before father awoke. The deceased child's father explained he had been co-sleeping with the child and had smoked marijuana prior to sleeping with the child.

The Department's investigation determined the deceased child's father was positive for marijuana and he admitted to use prior to going to bed with the deceased child next to him. Father reported he smoked marijuana due to sleep issues. He stated he smoked marijuana in the garage and then fed and changed the deceased child before going to bed. He reported he laid down and placed deceased child on his left. He reported that when he awoke, he and deceased child were on their stomaches. The deceased child's mother and sibling were out of town at a medical appointment. When mother returned, she drug screened and was negative for all substances. Both mother and father suffer from depression and other mental health issues.

The medical examiner listed the preliminary cause of death as suffocation due to co-sleeping. Final autopsy results are pending toxicology and have not been released at the close of the Department's investigation.

Law enforcement conducted an investigation, the case was submitted to the Grand Jury for review. No criminal charges had been filed at the close of the Department's investigation.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed deceased child's father committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child, which led to her death. Father admitted to using marijuana and co-sleeping with the child while under the influence of marijuana.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 02/02/2022: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe with plan

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Very High

Case Action:

Family Preservation

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Counseling and Evaluation,Parent/Caregiver Training,Basic Needs Support,Medical Resources/Assessment,Housing

Other Services:

Grandmother stayed in the home with the family to monitor both mom and dad caring for the deceased child's sibling. A plan of service was developed with the family.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

Grandmother moved into the home to assist with the supervision of the deceased child's sibling. Education was provided to the family of the deceased child: Water Safety, Car Seat Safety, Safe Sleep Practices, Gun Safety, Medicinal Safe Keeping as well as concerns related to heavy furniture installation.

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:

NA

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 03/02/2023 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.