Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 107205139

County of Child's Residence: EL PASO

Gender: Female

Age: 0 Year(s) 2 Month(s)

Date of Death: 03/11/2022

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: Askew,Amber

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 3/11/22

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report that a two-month old baby was unresponsive after co-sleeping with the mother. Emergency medical services arrived and performed life-saving measures. The baby was then transported to the hospital where additional life-saving measures were performed to no avail. The child was pronounced deceased at the hospital. The deceased child was in the sole care of the mother as the father was out of the country at the time of the incident. There were no visible signs of trauma.

The Department's investigation determined that the mother was co-sleeping with the deceased child. The mother woke up at approximately 6:30 a.m. and found the baby unresponsive. She called the father and then called 911. Life-saving measures were attempted and the child was transported to the hospital. It was noted that the deceased child was already in rigor mortis when the child arrived to the hospital. The child was pronounced deceased at 7:12 a.m. at the hospital. A search of the home revealed that there were drugs in the home. The mother later admitted to smoking marijuana throughout the day one day prior to the incident. In addition, the mother admitted to smoking marijuana before going to sleep in the same bed with the deceased child on the night of the incident. The mother was suffering from postpartum depression and was using marijuana to help her feel better. She was smoking THC regularly and was the primary caregiver to the deceased child.

The father was out of the county for work on the day of the incident, but he was aware of the mother's depression and drug usage.

Law enforcement conducted a criminal investigation. At the close of the Department's investigation no criminal charges had been filed. An autopsy was performed on the deceased child. There were no signs of trauma, and the toxicology was not contributory. The medical examiner did note that sudden infant death occurs more frequently in children who co-sleep with their parents.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed the allegation of neglectful supervision of the deceased child by the deceased child's mother. The mother admitted to using marijuana the day of the incident and right before she went to sleep in the same bed with the deceased child. The mother admitted to regular usage while being the child's only caregiver.

The Department was unable to determine that the father committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child. The father was out of the county at the time of the incident, but he was aware the mother was using drugs while caring for the deceased child.

A safety assessment and a risk assessment were not completed as the only child in the home passed away.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Only child died

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

No Service Referrals and deceased child was an only child.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

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:

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 02/24/2023 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.