Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 107735160

County of Child's Residence: MCLENNAN

Gender: Female

Age: 14 Year(s) 3 Month(s)

Date of Death: 09/29/2022

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: Avila,Natalie

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 09/29/2022

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report that law enforcement responded to a fatal shooting scene. The deceased child, deceased child's 15-year-old sibling, and the deceased child's mother were found fatally shot by the deceased child's stepfather. The deceased child's three half-siblings aged 4, 6, and 8 were uninjured but had witnessed the shootings. The stepfather went outside after killing the deceased child, her mother, and brother and killed two neighbors, and also shot a third neighbor. Law enforcement got into a shootout with the stepfather who was wounded and transported to the hospital.

The Department's investigation determined that the deceased child's stepfather shot and killed the deceased child, his 15-year-old brother, and her mother.

The medical examiner completed an autopsy, but final results were still pending when the Department's investigation closed.

A law enforcement investigation remains active and ongoing at case closure.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed allegations that the deceased child's stepfather committed physical abuse of the deceased child and her 15-year-old brother, which led to both children's death. The deceased child's stepfather admitted to shooting and killing both children along with their mother.

The Department did not confirm allegations that the deceased child's stepfather committed physical abuse of the deceased child's surviving siblings aged 4, 6, and 8 as those were better addressed under neglectful supervision.

The Department confirmed allegations of neglectful supervision of the deceased child's surviving siblings aged 4, 6, and 8 by the deceased child's stepfather. All of the surviving siblings witnessed and made outcries of seeing the shooting. The deceased child's stepfather's actions showed a blatant disregard for the safety and well-being of the surviving siblings.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 09/29/2022: Safety Assessment - Initial: Unsafe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Very High

Case Action:

Removal/Subcare

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Counseling and Evaluation,Parent/Caregiver Training

Other Services:

The children will receive services through conservatorship

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The family will receive ongoing services through conservatorship to include therapy.

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): 05/07/2022

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report that the deceased child's stepfather had hit the deceased child's mother in the mouth and grabbed her hair. The deceased child's sibling indicated the deceased child had been hit as well and her brother was home at the time. During the investigation, none of the children made an outcry of physical abuse or witnessing any domestic violence. The deceased child's stepfather and mother both denied allegations. No services were offered to the family.

Investigation Findings:

The Department did not confirm allegations of neglectful supervision of the deceased child's sibling by the deceased child's stepfather.

The Department did not confirm allegations of physical abuse of the deceased child by the deceased child's stepfather.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 05/09/2022: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Low

Case Action:

Close

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

not applicable

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

not applicable

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.