Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 107863651

County of Child's Residence: HARRIS

Gender: Female

Age: 0 Year(s) 10 Month(s)

Date of Death: 05/20/2022

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: Birdow,Adalyn

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 05/20/2022

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report notifying it of a fatal event after an unresponsive child arrived at a local hospital. The mother usually takes the two older siblings to school in the morning and leaves the two younger children with a babysitter. However, on the morning of the incident, the mother took the youngest child with her when dropping off the two older siblings at school and left the other child at home. The mother arrived back home at 9:00am and forgot the youngest child in the car seat. At 10:00am a friend arrived home to help the mother and asked about the youngest child. The mother was making a bottle when she realized that the child was still in the vehicle. The young child was found to be unresponsive. The mother and friend transported the unresponsive child to the emergency room where the child was declared deceased. The deceased child had been in the vehicle for several hours in 90 degree weather.

The Department's investigation determined that the mother would leave the deceased child and 3-year-old sibling home alone in the mornings when she drove the two older siblings to school. The mother confirmed she had placed the deceased child in a car seat when she transported the two older siblings to school. She arrived back home and went inside the home leaving the deceased child strapped in the car seat inside the vehicle. The mother admitted that for two hours she did not check on the two youngest children that she believed were in the bedroom of her home. She prepared a bottle to feed the deceased child when she realized the child was not inside the home. The mother

found the unresponsive child in the hot vehicle and a family friend drove her and the two children to the hospital where the child was pronounced deceased as a result of hyperthermia. The mother could not provide a viable explanation to account why she would not check on the two younger children that she admitted to leaving home alone regularly. During the investigation, the mother tested positive for marijuana and was the sole caregiver to the deceased child and three siblings. A Safety Plan was implemented for an in-home monitor to supervise the mother's interactions with her children while she participates in services offered by Family Based Safety Services.

The law enforcement investigation was pending at the time the Department's investigation closed.

The medical examiner conducted an autopsy but final results were not avilable when the Department completed it's investigation.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed allegations that the deceased child's mother committed Neglectful Supervision of the deceased child, which led to the child's death. The mother left the deceased child in a car seat in the backseat of her vehicle. The mother admitted that for two hours after arriving home she did not check on the deceased child or the sibling who was in the bedroom. She found the unresponsive child in the hot car and the child passed away from hyperthermia. The child had been in the care of the mother prior to her passing, and the mother failed to provide the needed supervision.

The Department confirmed allegations that the deceased child's mother committed Neglectful Supervision of the deceased child's sibling. The mother admitted to leaving the 3-year-old sibling home alone without supervision when she transported the older siblings to school. After arriving home, the mother did not check on the sibling for approximately two hours. The mother failed to provide the needed supervision to the young sibling.

Safety and Risk Factors Identified:
05/21/2022 - Safety Assessment - Initial - Safe with a plan
06/08/2022 - Risk Assessment - High
Final Safety Decision: Safe with a plan
Case Action: Family Preservation

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Family Preservation

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Counseling and Evaluation

Other Services:

The mother is participating in services offered by Family Based Safety Services to address grief, substance abuse and parenting.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The mother agreed to secure an in-home monitor to supervise her interactions with the children.

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:

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 02/27/2020

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report notifying it of concerns with the deceased child's father and three siblings being involved in a car crash. The father drove his car into the back of another vehicle. The father was intoxicated and could not speak coherently. He was arrested and the siblings were released to another relative.

The Department's investigation determined the deceased child's three siblings were residing with their mother and father. The father had been driving with the three siblings when they were involved in a collision. He was arrested for driving under the influence. The father did not make any admissions of abuse or neglect. The mother was not present when the father was driving under the influence. The siblings remained in the care of their mother and she agreed to remain protective.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed allegations that the deceased child's father committed Neglectful Supervision of the three siblings. The father was intoxicated when he was driving with the siblings and was involved in a collision. He was arrested by law enforcement and the children were released to their mother. The mother was not a caregiver at the time of the incident that led to the father's arrest.

Safety and Risk Factors Identified:
02/28/2020 - Safety Assessment - Initial - Safe
03/13/2020 - Safety Assessment - Case Closure-Safe
03/16/2020 - Risk Assessment - Moderate

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The mother was able to access community resources for her children.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The relatives agreed to help monitor the children and report concerns in the future.

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.