Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 108459165

County of Child's Residence: TARRANT

Gender: Female

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

Date of Death: 08/09/2022

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: Turner,Empress

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 08/09/2022, 08/09/2022, 08/09/2022

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received three reports after the child was found unresponsive and not breathing. The child was transported to the hospital, she appeared very small and malnourished, and x-rays found fractures to the child's arms and legs. The child was pronounced deceased at the hospital. It was reported the deceased child's mother and father do not believe in medication, they previously took the child to a chiropractor and holistic doctors, and the parents did not follow up for additional medical care.

The Department determined the child was unresponsive, had no heart beat or brain activity at the hospital, and was pronounced deceased. The attending physician advised the deceased child lacked the nourishment to survive and was severally dehydrated. The deceased child's tests came back with her potassium levels so high that it would affect the heartbeat. The deceased child had a femur fracture on each leg, rib fractures that could not be explained and the child appeared to have been starved. The hospital charge nurse advised the deceased child most likely had brittle bones due to the malnourishment and taking the child in this condition to a chiropractor was not appropriate and could be the source for the fractures. The deceased child's belly was distended with the belly button sticking outward. The chiropractic office was contacted and staff reported they noticed something visibly wrong with the child's condition, and encouraged parents to have the child seen by a pediatric specialist. A sibling to the deceased child reported during a forensic interview that the deceased child wasn't moving much, had less energy, and wasn't a

chubby baby anymore because her mom changed the child's diet and her mom didn't want the child to be fat. The deceased child's mother and father reported they were aware the deceased child was losing weight, that she had regressed in childhood milestones, she was vomiting and had changed in physical appearance, and they did not seek medical treatment because they do not believe in doctors. The deceased child's parents reported they last took the deceased child to a chiropractor in May 2022, which was prior to the child beginning to lose weight. The deceased child's parents didn't have an explanation for the child's broken bones. The deceased child's nonverbal sibling was observed at the hospital and he appeared thin, underweight, with ribs visible. There are no past medical records to help determine if there were concerns with the deceased child not being fed an adequate diet or if the child had always been thin and underweight. The deceased child's siblings were removed from the parents.

The Medical Examiner conducted an autopsy, but the final cause and manner of death were not available when the Department's investigation closed.

Law enforcement completed an investigation and the investigation was still pending when the Department's investigation closed.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed allegations that the deceased child's mother committed Medical Neglect of the deceased child, which led to her death. The mother admitted to being aware the child lost weight and had physical and developmental changes and she failed to seek reasonable medical care.

The Department confirmed allegations the deceased child's father committed Medical Neglect of the deceased child, which led to her death. The father admitted to being aware the child lost weight and had physical and developmental changes and he failed to seek reasonable medical care.

The Department did not confirm allegations the deceased child's mother and father committed Physical Abuse of the deceased child. The deceased child had several fractures at the time of her death, but it was unknown at the time if the fractures were caused by abuse; or if the child's malnourshiment caused the child's bones to become brittle.

The Department did not confirm allegations the deceased child's mother and father committed Physical Neglect to the deceased child's sibling. The sibling was observed to be thin and underweight but due to having no prior medical care it was unknown if there were concerns of neglect; or if the child had always been thin and underweight.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:
Safety Assessments:
1.) 08/11/2022: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe with plan
2.) 09/22/2022: Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Very High
Case Action:
Close

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Close

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

Counseling and parenting skills were offerred but were denied.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The deceased child's siblings were removed and placed in foster care. The family was offered counseling and parenting skills but the services were not completed and were denied. The Judge ordered the children to be placed with the paternal great grandmother out of state, the parents were given joint conservatorship with the great grandmother, the parents were to have supervised contact with the children, and the Department was dismissed.

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 03/03/2023 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.