Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 109124249

County of Child's Residence: MIDLAND

Gender: Female

Age: 0 Year(s) 4 Month(s)

Date of Death: 12/25/2022

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: Rodriguez,Aalahni

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 12/25/2022, 12/25/2022, 12/28/2022

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received three reports which were combined into a single investigation. First report was received by medical personnel that deceased child was brought in for treatment due to not eating well, vomiting, and was experiencing respiratory failure. The CT scan of the child's head showed subdural hemorrhages, both acute and chronic. The child's pupils are non-reactive and child has no movement. Injuries are consistent with non-accidental trauma to the head. There are no explanations for these injuries. Next report on the same date; indicated kidney lacerations and bowel thickening as well as healed fractures on the forearm, old fractures to the left forearm and left tibia. Another report on the same date indicated deceased child was being treated initially for sepsis or infection and being very cold to the touch. Report also stated deceased child's mother had been murdered two weeks prior. Final report stated that child died at the hospital after being treated for multiple injuries and respiratory distress. Reporter stated deceased child's father broke into hotel room and murdered deceased child's mother. All children may have been present, deceased child's father is incarcerated for that incident.

The Department determined deceased child had been in the primary care of numerous relatives prior to her death. Child's mother was killed by her father. Medical professionals stated deceased child's injuries occurred 3-6 weeks prior to her passing. It is unknown who the primary caregiver was to the child at that time, as both parents and other family members had access to her. The deceased child's oldest sibling made no outcry of any physical abuse of

deceased child, herself or either of the other two siblings. None of the family members interviewed were aware of deceased child being sick. However, it was reported she seemed lethargic, tired and didn't move or make many noises while in their care. On December 23, 2022, she started throwing up, breathing quickly and running fever. On December 24, 2022, she began gasping for air and was taken to a hospital in Mexico, then transported via air ambulance to a specialized children's hospital. She was not taken to the doctor or emergency room prior to December 25, 2022 by her caregivers. It was learned from medical professionals that deceased child's injuries were a result of multiple incidents of shaking. There were additional concerns the child could have suffered seizures from birth.

The Department learned from law enforcement deceased child's father murdered deceased child's mother by stabbing her multiple times on December 8, 2022 and has been incarcerated since December 10, 2022.

The medical examiner completed an autopsy and reported the preliminary findings were manner of death homicide, cause of death is abusive head trauma caused by shaking. The deceased child had bleeding to the brain, and due to the consistency, the entire brain had to be sent for analysis. The time frame for death will be determined once lab results are returned. The injuries to the brain are consistent with non-accidental trauma. Cultures, toxicology and brain results are pending.

Law enforcement conducted an investigation into the murder of deceased child's mother and now the injuries and death of deceased child. Deceased child's father is currently incarcerated for capital murder of the deceased child's mother, murder and possession of marijuana. Bond is set at $2,000,000.00. Law enforcement conducted an investigation and no criminal charges have been filed at closure of the Department's investigation for the injuries and murder of deceased child.

Investigation Findings:

As a result of the Department's investigation, an unknown perpetrator was confirmed for physical abuse of the deceased child, leading to the deceased child's death. An unknown perpetrator was confirmed for the physical abuse of the deceased child because it could not be determined if either mother or father physically abused the deceased child. Both mother and father had access to the child the 3-6 weeks prior to her death. Father denied involvement, and verbal children interviewed reported that they did not see father harm or injure the child. Further interviews were not conducted due to the pending criminal case.

The Department confirmed the deceased child's father committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child and the deceased child's three siblings. The father is awaiting trial for the capital murder of the mother. The father's actions of killing the children's mother left the children without any caregiver to supervise and provide for the children.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Close

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Counseling and Evaluation

Other Services:

Early Childhood Intervention referrals were made for the siblings under the age of 3.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

A legal staffing took place to determine if there were legal grounds to remove the children.
All surviving siblings were medically cleared by medical professionals, skeletal surveys were requested and all children cleared.
A family team meeting was provided to the family in an effort to ensure that they are aware of community resources, counseling opportunities, and are able to meet the needs of all remaining siblings in the future.
The Department assisted in obtaining a power of attorney from deceased child's father for all remaining siblings, to secure benefits for the children; make it attainable for the family to enroll the children in school, take them to doctors, etc.

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): 10/17/2022

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report that law enforcement responded to serve a warrant and observed deceased child and siblings in the home. Parents are abusive to one another, law enforcement is constantly called to the motel as father is beating the mother. Last night law enforcement had to force entry into the room for a felony warrant and father would not come outside. The living conditions are described as filthy. There did not appear to be any food for the children. There was old and moldy food throughout the home. Both parents were arrested, an aunt took custody of deceased child and three siblings. Mother was arrested for hindering and apprehension of a felon, and father was arrested for having 9 warrants.

The Department determined that the oldest child was verbal and when interviewed did not make any outcries of domestic violence. The other children in the home were not verbal and could not be interviewed. The home did not have any holes in the walls or any evidence of things being out of place due to domestic violence. When a home visit was conducted at the hotel the room was clean and was not filthy. The room did not have old moldy food.

The children were in the hotel room when the police knocked down the door; however, there was not enough information to say that the children were placed in a situation that a reasonable person would realize requires judgement or actions beyond the children's level of maturity, physical condition, or mental abilities. No children were in immediate danger of harm.

Law enforcement allowed the children to go with an aunt when the parents were arrested. There were utilities in the home, food was observed. The oldest sibling stated that she did not want to talk the incident because it was too traumatizing. Family collaterals reported that parents were not engaging in domestic violence and were good parents to their children.

Investigation Findings:

The Department did not confirm that the mother and father committed neglectful supervision or physical neglect of the deceased child's siblings. The parents had a clean hotel room, food for the children and the children had not been in immediate danger.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Risk Assessment: Safety Decision Final Risk Level
10/20/2022 Safety - Initial Safe
10/20/2022 Risk Moderate
Domestic violence was identified as occurring in the household within the last year.

Case Action:

Closed

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

The Department offered the parents drug testing; the parents did not accept this service.

Other Services:

NA

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

NA

Other Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 12/10/2022

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report that law enforcement responded to deceased child's mother being stabbed to death by deceased child's father. Deceased child and siblings were inside of the motel room, when father kicked in the door, mother was stabbed to death outside of the room, around the corner. Father fled the scene.

The Department determined that deceased child and siblings were not present when the incident occurred, no forensic interviews are being done at this time, due to none of the siblings witnessing the incident.

Investigation Findings:

The investigation was administratively closed due to deceased child and siblings not being present; law enforcement is not requesting forensic interviews due to lack of witnesses. Deceased child and siblings were released to family members.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Risk Assessment: NA-not required by policy

Case Action:

Administratively closed

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

NA

Other Services:

NA

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

NA

Note: This report was prepared on 10/24/2023 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.