Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 109878251

County of Child's Residence: BELL

Gender: Male

Age: 2 Year(s) 10 Month(s)

Date of Death: 01/26/2023

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: Cook,Dwayne W

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 01/22/2023

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report notifying that a two-year-old child was found unresponsive in the pool. The deceased child's father had been working in the barn and the deceased child had gone back inside the home to retrieve a bottle. The father began looking for the child after 10 minutes and found the child in the deep end of the pool.

The Department's investigation determined that the deceased child had been with the father outside in the barn and the father told the child to go inside the home to get his bottle. The father initially reported that he had been on the phone with a friend when this occurred and that the timeframe was approximately 10 minutes before he began looking for the child after the child did not return. When cell phone records were obtained by law enforcement, the phone call lasted over two hours. In addition, it was found that the child had previously expressed curiosity of the pool and had been told to not go near the pool. The father had been advised by other family members to watch the child around the pool since it was unsecured without any fencing. The child was sustained on life support for three days following when the child was found in the pool before being declared deceased. The deceased child was the only child in the home.

Law enforcement reported that after obtaining the cell phone records that showed that the father was on a call for two

hours instead of 10 minutes, they would be attempting to obtain an arrest warrant for the father for Injury to a Child by Omission.

The medical examiner autopsied the deceased child and the final autopsy listed the cause of death as drowning and the manner of death as accident.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed the allegation that the father committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child, which led to the child's death.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 01/23/2023: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Moderate

Case Action:

Close

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:

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s):

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

Investigation Findings:

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Closed to Merge

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s):

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

Investigation Findings:

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Closed to Merge

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

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 10/24/2023 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.