Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 111433405

County of Child's Residence: DALLAS

Gender: Male

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

Date of Death: 07/18/2023

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: Mann Taylor,Joshua

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 7/18/2023

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report the deceased child was found unresponsive with a bloody nose. The child was transported to a local hospital where he was later pronounced deceased.

The Departments investigation determined the deceased child's mother consented to taking a urine and hair strand drug test that yielded positive results for marijuana. The mother admitted to engaging in marijuana use during her pregnancy and while caring for her children. The deceased child's father also admitted to engaging in marijuana use with the mother while caring for their children. The deceased child's mother and father of the deceased child placed the child in the car seat inside the back of the vehicle with no working air conditioner along with his older siblings. The mother and father spent several hours out in extreme heat in the middle of summer driving around with the child and his older siblings in the back seat doing Grubhub food deliveries. By the fathers own admission, the father made sure to get out of the hot vehicle and get himself ice water while the deceased child and siblings remained in the car. The mother rode around with her child getting hotter and hotter in the back seat while mother drank alcohol and argued with the father. The deceased child's mother became intoxicated, she threw the father's phone out the vehicle window onto the freeway, she assaulted him, he assaulted her, and the mother got arrested after the father called emergency responders. The mother and father did all of this while the deceased child remained in his car seat in the hot car along with his older siblings. The older siblings were able to detail the mother and father's altercation that took place.

The deceased child's father drove the deceased child and sibling's home after the mother's arrest. At home, the father immediately recognized the child was not doing well, and he was extremely hot. The father got the next-door neighbor to watch the children while he stepped out to get the child some formula from a local store due to the mother being arrested and not having any breast milk stored. The neighbor reported wiping blood from the child's nose and advising the father to seek medical attention. The deceased child's father ignored the advice of his neighbor to seek medical treatment for the child. The father waited until the next morning when the child had little to no signs of life to finally call 911. The mother and father engaged in domestic violence while in the presence of the children and placed them at a substantial risk of immediate harm. The deceased child's father failed to address the child's medical needs by not taking the child to seek medical attention, which led to his death.

The medical examiner conducted an autopsy and listed the cause of death as hyperthermia and its complications, and the manner of death was accidental. There were fractures present, but they were consistent with resuscitative efforts and not indicative of physical abuse.

The Department consulted child abuse medical professionals with Forensic Assessment Center Network which concluded the death was directly related to the actions of the parents by placing the child in a dangerous situation.

A law enforcement investigation was completed. The deceased child's mother and father were charged with Injury to a Child.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed the deceased child's father committed medical neglect of the deceased child which led to his death. The father failed to seek medical attention.

The Department confirmed the deceased child's mother and father committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child and siblings. The mother and father engaged in domestic violence while in the presence of the children, the mother was under the influence of alcohol and the mother and father admitted to engaging in marijuana use while caring for their children.

The Department was not able to confirm the deceased child's father committed physical abuse of the deceased child. The fractures were consistent with resuscitative efforts and not indicative of physical abuse.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 07/18/2023: Safety Assessment - Initial: Unsafe
2.) 07/25/2023: Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Safe
3.) 07/25/2023: Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Unsafe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Very High

Case Action:

Removal/Subcare

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The Family was referred to Conservatorship through the Department and accepted the services.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The risk was mitigated due to the mother and father only having supervised visitation with the siblings.

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): 09/07/2020, 09/09/2020 - two reports merged into single investigation

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report with concerns relating to the mother catching the maternal grandfather with one of the deceased child's siblings in the closet. The grandfather had his pants down. The sibling was asked what happened and she reported that she was sucking maternal grandfather's "boo-boo". The grandfather admitted to law enforcement that he put his penis on the sibling's lips. A subsequent intake came in with concerns the mother leaves the siblings with the maternal grandfather, who is unable to care for himself due to a medical diagnosis.

The Departments investigation determined the sibling had a forensic interview, but the department did not observe the interview. Law Enforcement confirmed the grandfather was charged regarding the sexual abuse. The parents would not allow the department in the house, only a visual observation of the siblings. The mother allowed the forensic interview to take place, but she was not cooperative after. The siblings father followed the mother's lead. The case was staffed with legal to seek court orders to participate in the investigation however this was declined. The case was not referred for further services due to the children having protective parents, mom calling the police and the grandfather being arrested. Collaterals advised the mother was seeking monetary gain from the maternal grandfather and was aware of him having Dementia and being sexually inappropriate with other women in the family. Adult Protective Services had been involved due to the mother attempting to access the grandfather's account in the past. It was noted the mother moved the grandfather into the home placing both children at risk of being abused. It is not clear if the father knew about the grandfather's sexually inappropriate behavior prior to him moving into the home.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed the mother committed neglectful supervision of the siblings.

The Department was unable to confirm if the father committed neglectful supervision of the siblings.

The Department confirmed the grandfather committed sexual abuse of the sibling.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 09/09/2020: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe with plan
2.) 09/18/2020: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe with plan
3.) 10/19/2020: Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Safe
4.) 10/19/2020: Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Moderate

Case Action:

Fam refusal/No legal interven poss-Close

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Counseling and Evaluation

Other Services:

None.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The mother was offered counseling services and declined.

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 06/24/2024 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.