Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 115047472

County of Child's Residence: HARRIS

Gender: Female

Age: 0 Year(s) 5 Month(s)

Date of Death: 10/02/2024

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: Smith,Janae

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 09/30/2024

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report notifying it of a fatal event after the five-month-old deceased child was found to have several healing rib fractures in various stages of healing after being taken to the hospital. According to the deceased child's father, he was holding the child in his lap when the child went limp. The father started cardiopulmonary resuscitation and called 911. The father described a previous incident where the child was throwing up after a feeding and the father had to deliver rescue breaths before the child returned to baseline. The child had a fever two days prior to her hospitalization and she was currently having breathing issues. The father claimed that he was holding the child tightly when he was running upstairs to account for the rib injuries. The child is not expected to recover. The medical staff believe the child's injuries are a result of non-accidental trauma.

The Department's investigation determined that the deceased child resided with the mother, father, maternal grandparents, adolescent aunt and uncle. The father was the primary caregiver to the child while the mother worked outside of the home. The father described how the child was not as active as she normally was while he was holding her and then he decided to put her down for a nap. He later picked her up and the child went limp in his arms. He called out to the adolescent aunt who was in the home with him and then called 911. The adolescent aunt confirmed that she observed the father taking the child upstairs to his bedroom and the child appeared to be fine. She was downstairs when the father ran downstairs telling her something was wrong with the child. The aunt ran upstairs and observed the child on the bed with her eyes half-open and with labored breathing. The child was "gurgling" as she was breathing, and the father used a suction ball. The aunt noticed that the father suctioned blood from the child's mouth and then the father "blew into" the child's mouth causing blood to start coming out of the child's nose. The

father told the aunt that he believed the child had scratched her gums with her fingernails. The father did not want the aunt to contact the maternal grandmother and he wanted to verify if the baby's condition worsened before calling anyone else for advice. Emergency medical services arrived and transported the unresponsive child to the hospital. The medical staff found that the child sustained numerous injuries consistent with non-accidental, abusive head trauma and rib fractures. The child did not recover and passed away at the hospital. The mother and father were the sole caregivers to the child and could not provide a viable explanation for the injuries. The mother and father did not make any admissions of abuse or neglect. The maternal grandparents and uncle were not in the home when the child became unresponsive and played no role in the fatal event. The parents did not have any other minor children in their care.

The medical examiner completed an autopsy, but the final report was not available when the Department completed its investigation. The preliminary results confirmed the cause of death was related to the herniation of the brain with multiple subdural hematomas with the manner of death as a Homicide.

Law enforcement conducted an investigation was pending at the time the Department's investigation closed however they arrested the mother and father and charged them with Injury to a Child.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed allegations that the deceased child's father committed Physical Abuse of the deceased child, which led to the child's death. The child sustained fatal injuries while in the care of her father.

The Department confirmed allegations that the deceased child's mother committed Physical Abuse of the deceased child. The mother did not keep the child safe or prevent the child from being harmed by her father.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:
A Safety and Risk Assessment were not required in this investigation as the only child in the household died.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Only child died

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The parents agreed to accept the grief counseling resources offered to them.

No Service Referrals and deceased child was an only child.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

Not applicable.

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:

Not applicable.

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 05/12/2026 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.