Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 115257114

County of Child's Residence: GALVESTON

Gender: Female

Age: 1 Year(s) 5 Month(s)

Date of Death: 10/23/2024

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: Yonko,Hannah

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 10/23/2024

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report notifying it of a fatal event after law enforcement responded to a call when the deceased child was found on the side of the road with stab wounds and pronounced deceased at the local hospital. The deceased child's mother was located and has been charged with capital murder of the child.

The Department's investigation determined that the mother and deceased child were staying temporarily at a motel with the mother's cousin. The cousin left the motel room to visit her paramour at another motel in the area leaving the mother alone with the child. During the cousin's absence, the deceased child's mother stabbed the child in the back and then threw her off the fourth-floor balcony onto the street. The child did not recover from the injuries and was declared deceased when transported to the nearby hospital. The mother was located at a nearby store where she was arrested by law enforcement. Law enforcement gathered evidence to include the video showing the mother tossing the child over the balcony. The bloody knife and baby items were found in a dumpster near the motel. According to the medical examiner, the stab wounds were superficial, and the child died as a result of the impact from the fall. The mother did not make any admissions of abuse or neglect. She did not have any of her other children in her care. One sibling was found to be residing out of state with her father and did not have contact with the mother. The two older siblings were residing with their father and did not have a relationship with the mother. The mother remained in jail and did not have access to any children.

The medical examiner completed an autopsy, but the final report was not available when the Department completed its investigation. The preliminary results confirmed that the child sustained a traumatic head injury and three stab

wounds to the back. The manner of death was a homicide with the cause of death as the head injury.

Law enforcement conducted an investigation that was still pending at the time the Department's investigation closed, however the mother was charged her with Capital Murder of a person under ten years old.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed allegations that the deceased child's mother committed Physical Abuse of the deceased child, which led to the child's death.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:
A Safety and Risk Assessment was 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 parent agreed to accept the grief counseling resources offered.

No Service Referrals and deceased child was an only child.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The only child in the home passed away.

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.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 06/22/2019

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report notifying it of concerns when the deceased child's half-sibling, age 5 months, was taken to the emergency room of a local hospital. The deceased child's mother and the sibling's father appeared to be under the influence and in an "altered" state. The sibling was described as appearing to be "swollen" and her parents claimed they found her face down in a crib with "blue lips and a red body." They had "suctioned" her mouth and nose before transporting her to the hospital. The medical staff recommended for the child to be admitted for further testing and overnight observation. However, the mother and paramour left with the child against medical advice.

The Department's investigation determined the half-sibling was found by the mother and father after she had rolled over in her crib and was asleep on her stomach. The half-sibling appeared to be having difficulty breathing which concerned the parents and led them to seek medical treatment at the local hospital. The parents claimed that the medical staff were asking them to pay for the emergency visit and they did not have the money for the admission. They opted to leave the hospital when the treating physician informed them that the half-sibling needed to stay overnight for observation and the parents did not want a large bill for the service. The mother confirmed that she did not have Medicaid. The parents denied being in an altered state or using illicit drugs/ alcohol. The mother agreed to have the half-sibling taken to another medical provider to confirm there were no other health complications. The parents did not follow through with completing the drug screening that they had initially agreed to do. The mother and paramour secured legal counsel and the case was closed with the half-sibling remaining with her parents. They family had the support of the maternal and paternal grandparents.

Investigation Findings:

The Department did not confirm allegations that the deceased child's mother and half-siblings father committed Neglectful Supervision and Medical Neglect of the half-sibling.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 06/22/2019: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe
2.) 10/29/2019: Safety Assessment - Case Closure: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Moderate

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The parents did not accept the services offered to them.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

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.