Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 69756465

County of Child's Residence:

Gender: Male

Age: 14 Year(s) 11 Month(s)

Date of Death: 05/15/2022

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: Ray,Daniel

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 09/15/2022

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report the deceased child died in the Spring of 2022. The deceased child's stepfather was under the influence while he was driving with the child and deceased child's sibling in the vehicle.

The Department's investigation determined the child died on May 15, 2022, from injuries sustained in a motor vehicle accident. The driver attempted to negotiate a curve at an unsafe speed which caused the vehicle to drive off the roadway where it struck a mailbox. The driver over-corrected causing the vehicle to slide across the roadway where it struck a large tree off the roadway and split in two. Before driving, the stepfather was observed drinking a large amount of alcohol and he stopped at a store to buy more alcohol shortly before the accident. There were broken bottles of alcohol found at both inside and outside of the vehicle at the scene. The deceased child recorded the vehicle's speed in excess of 100 miles per hour on a mobile phone. Upon impact the deceased child's sibling was ejected from the vehicle and the child died at the scene. Both the stepfather and the sibling were severely injured.

Law Enforcment conducted an investigation but had not completed their investigation before the Department's case closed. According to Law Enforcement possible charges include manslaughter, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and endangerment to a child.

The medical examiner conducted an autopsy, and the final autopsy indicates the Cause of Death to be multiple blunt force injuries and the Manner of Death to be accident. The medical examiner indicated the blunt force injuries were sustained in the motor vehicle accident.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed the deceased child's stepfather committed physical abuse of the deceased child which led to the child's death. The stepfather drank alcohol before recklessly driving at over 100 miles per hour with the child and the deceased child's sibling in the vehicle.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 09/16/2022: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: High

Case Action:

Close

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Counseling and Evaluation

Other Services:

The deceased child's family was referred to grief counseling, accepted the counseling referral and were in counseling when the Department's investigation closed.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The deceased child's siblings are living with the deceased child's mother. The mother is not allowing visits with the deceased child's stepfather at case closure. The siblings are attending weekly counseling sessions at their school.

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): 03/07/2011

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report of the deceased child and siblings not having a clean and safe place to live. Also reported was a lack of food and utilities in the home, drugs assessable to the children and a household member who was recently released from jail.

The Department's investigation determined the family was staying at the deceased child's maternal grandparent's home while the deceased child's mother and paramour were repairing a mobile home for the family to live. The grandparent's home was clean and safe. The mobile home where the family plan to live had no safety hazards and the utilities were in the process of being repaired. The mother's drug test was negative.

Investigation Findings:

The Department did not confirm the mother, or her paramour committed neglectful supervision of the child and siblings. The family was repairing the mobile home in preparation of living there. While they were working on the mobile home, the family was residing with the grandparents in a safe, secure environment which met the needs of the children.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

There is protective family members who see the family often and help with the children.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 10/02/2011

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report the deceased child's mother and her paramour were arrested. The mother was charged with possession of marijuana, methamphetamines and hydrocodone. The paramour was charged with manufacture and delivery of methamphetamines as well as possession of marijuana and hydrocodone. The reporter was unclear where the deceased child and sibling were located at the time of arrest.

The Department's investigation determined the deceased child's mother and the paramour were both positive for marijuana, methamphetamine and amphetamine when they were drug tested. The deceased child's mother attempted to falsify her drug test by using someone else's urine. The mother and paramour are the primary caregivers to the child and sibling.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed the deceased child's mother and paramour committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child and sibling. Both the mother and paramour were positive for illegal substances and arrested for drug related charges.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The family was offered Family Preservation Services and accepted the services

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The children were placed in a Parental Child Safety Placement with the deceased child's grandmother who supervised all contact with the deceased child's mother and paramour.
The case was transferred to Family Based Safety Services (Family Preservation stage) on 12/08/2022 where the deceased child's mother and paramour completed substance abuse treatment, anger management, parenting and addressed their mental health. The mother and paramour successfully completed services and the children were returned to their care. The Family Preservation stage closed 08/10/2012.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 11/23/2011

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report the deceased child's grandmother is an alcoholic and the caregiver to the deceased child and sibling. The report also states the grandmother drinks alcohol and drives with the children in the vehicle.

The Department's investigation determined the grandmother did admit to drinking over the Thanksgiving holiday, but not to the point of intoxication. The grandmother admitted to using alcohol during the holiday as this was the first holiday since her husband died.

Investigation Findings:

The Department did not confirm the deceased child's grandmother committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child and sibling. Though the grandmother admitted to drinking on Thanksgiving, there is no evidence she was too intoxicated to care for the children.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The deceased child's grandmother was referred to grief counseling and AA services. She accepted the referrals.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

Family Preservation stage is still active and the deceased child's mother and paramour are receiving services. The caseworker monitors the child, sibling and grandmother regularly though home and school visits.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 02/20/2014; 03/05/2014

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report on 02/20/2014 concerning the deceased child's mother was using methamphetamines. Another report was made on 03/05/2014 concerning domestic violence in the home between the mother and paramour while the children were in the home.

The Department's investigation determined there was a domestic violence incident where law enforcement was called to the scene and the children were present in the home. It appears the incident was over a text message and the deceased child's mother was the aggressor. The mother admitted to using methamphetamines while the children were with family members and she negatve for drugs when tested by the Department.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed the deceased child's mother and paramour committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child and younger siblings. The mother and paramour admitted to the domestic violence incident and the mother admitted to using methamphetamines when the children were not with her.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The family was referred for counseling and accepted the referral.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 02/11/2018

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report regarding domestic violence in the home where the deceased child and younger siblings witnessed the deceased child's stepfather punch the deceased child's mother in the face.

The Department's investigation determined only one sibling stated the violence happened and both the mother

and the stepfather denied domestic violence. There was no other outcry of abuse or neglect, and the mother did not have any bruises or marks to her face. A neighbor denied knowing about any domestic violence.

Investigation Findings:

The Department did not confirm the deceased child's stepfather committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child and younger siblings. One sibling made an outcry of domestic violence in the home, but the child and the other sibling did not make any outcry of violence. The deceased child's mother had no injuries.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 02/13/2018: Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Safe
2.) 02/13/2018: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: High

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

NA

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

Family members live on the same property and the children are capable of calling 911 if someone is in harm's way.

Other Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 03/05/2021

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report the deceased child's stepfather had told one of the deceased child's siblings one of the "kids" would have to shoot a family dog if the dog bites again, the deceased child's mother and the stepfather are using drugs and there is domestic violence in front of the children.

The Department's Alternative Response investigation determined there was no outcry by the children and denied any domestic violence. The children confirmed was no gun in the home except for the child's AirSoft BB gun. The parents are involved in community services to help them maintain sobriety.

Investigation Findings:

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Risk Assessment: none

Case Action:

close

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

none

Other Services:

Information on utilities assistance was provided and accepted by the mother

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The family is connected to community services which provide relapse prevention and counseling services

Note: This report was prepared on 03/03/2023 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.