Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 92789717

County of Child's Residence: HARRISON

Gender: Female

Age: 17 Year(s) 9 Month(s)

Date of Death: 06/21/2022

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: Bolden,Destiny

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 06/21/2022, 06/21/2022

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report when the deceased child was found unresponsive. Law Enforcement responded and found the deceased child in an closed car. Emergency Medical Services responded and performed life saving measures while transporting the deceased child to the hospital. The deceased child's temperature at the hospital was 109 degrees Fahrenheit.

The Department investigation determined the 17-year-old deceased child had a diagnosis of cerebral palsy, was non-verbal, blind and completely dependent on others for her care. The deceased child had to be moved or transported by others, thus she was unable to open a car door and get out of the car without help. During the day, the deceased child's mother and two siblings were running errands and picked up the deceased child from her grandmother's home. When the family arrived home, the mother and siblings went inside the house. Everyone went to separate rooms and no one noticed the deceased child was not inside the home. The deceased child was discovered in the closed vehicle several hours later.

Law Enforcement investigated the fatality, but no charges had been filed when the Department's investigation was closed.

The medical examiner conducted an autopsy of the deceased child, but the final autopsy was not available when the Department's investigation closed. The preliminary autopsy listed the cause of death as Trauma/Injury (Vehicle Related) and the manner of death as Accidental.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed allegations the deceased child's mother and adult sibling both committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child, which led to the child's death. The deceased child was completely dependent on others and was unable to move her own body. The mother and adult sibling did not ensure the deceased child had been brought inside after returning home from running errands. The deceased child remained in the car for several hours on a hot day.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 06/21/2022: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Very High

Case Action:

Close

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Counseling and Evaluation

Other Services:

The family was referred to counseling, but it is unknown if the mother and the siblings participated in counseling.

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): 09/01/2017

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report the deceased child was severely malnourished, and the deceased child's mother was not ensuring the deceased child was receiving her prescribed medication. The mother made excuses of having to drive two hours to Dallas to get the medication.

The Department's investigation determined the mother had not given the deceased child her medications for a period of time, but the deceased child had not suffered any seizures due to not having her medication. The hospital provided a 90-day supply of medication for the deceased child when she was discharged. Also, there were no concerns for the deceased child's ability to eat and the mother was educated how to count calories to ensure the deceased child was getting enough calories each day.

Investigation Findings:

The Department could not confirm allegations the mother committed Medical Neglect of the deceased child. Although the mother did not give the deceased child her medication for a time, the deceased child did not have any seizures. Also, medical personnel determined the deceased child could eat chew and swallow without difficulty.

The Department did not confirm allegations the mother committed Physical Neglect of the deceased child. The mother was providing the deceased child with the necessary food and the mother was receptive to learning how to enhance the deceased child's weight and calorie intake.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 09/01/2017: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Moderate

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

Nutritional education was provided by medical personnel and the mother participated in learning how to better feed the child.

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 02/24/2023 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.