Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 110754217

County of Child's Residence: COLLIN

Gender: Female

Age: 0 Year(s) 2 Month(s)

Date of Death: 04/27/2023

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: Smith,Ellena

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 4/27/2023

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report of a fatal event when Law Enforcement responded to a 911 call and discovered the deceased child who drowned in a baby tub. The Departments investigation determined the deceased child's father placed the deceased child inside a baby bathtub, began filling the tub and went outside to complete a sale that was orchestrated through Facebook Marketplace by the deceased child's mother. The deceased child's father reported after approximately 2-3 minutes or so, he went back inside the RV and could hear the deceased child's sibling crying, so he made the sibling a bottle and propped her back up. The deceased child's father then went to check on the deceased child and found her halfway submerged under the water and unresponsive. The deceased child's father then googled how to perform resuscitation and called the deceased child's mother who told him to call 911 immediately. The deceased child's mother was at work at the time of the incident. The RV was found to be in deplorable conditions with an overwhelming amount of safety hazards. One of the siblings had a painful rupture infection to the hemangioma behind her left ear as a result of the mother and father failing to seek medical attention. An autopsy was completed. The cause of death was drowning, and the manner of death was accidental. A Law Enforcement investigation was completed, and no criminal charges have been filed upon closure of the investigation.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed the deceased child's father committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child which led to her death. The deceased child's father left a child who did not have the cognitive ability to recognize the danger of water unattended in the bathtub and it resulted in the child's death. The Department confirmed the deceased child's mother and father committed physical neglect of the two siblings. The RV was found to be in deplorable conditions with an overwhelming amount of safety hazards. The Department confirmed the deceased child's mother and father committed medical neglect of the sibling. The deceased child' sibling had a painful rupture infection to the hemangioma behind her left ear as a result of the mother and father failing to seek medical attention. 04/27/2023: Safety Assessment - Initial: Unsafe Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Very High

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Removal/Subcare

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Counseling and Evaluation

Other Services:

The family was offered conservatorship services and accepted.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The risk is mitigated as the children have been removed and they only have supervised contact with the parents.

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:

The conservatorship of the deceased child's sibling began on 4/22/2022. On May 23, 2022, the sibling was returned to the mother's care following a court hearing. The conservatorship stage was closed 6/8/2022.

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:

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 10/25/2023 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.