Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 111114434

County of Child's Residence: LIBERTY

Gender: Male

Age: 2 Year(s) 8 Month(s)

Date of Death: 06/04/2023

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: Jones,Adam L

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 06/04/2023

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report notifying it of a fatal event after emergency medical services responded to an unresponsive child at the great-grandparent's home. The deceased child's father and children were visiting the great-grandparents when he allowed the four children to play in the backyard. The deceased child's father reported looking for them and saw the siblings playing in the front yard. He did not see the youngest of the children and went to the back while the grandparents contacted 911. The deceased child's father saw the youngest child in the pond and jumped in to get him out. He initiated cardiopulmonary resuscitation and emergency medical services arrived, but they were unable to resuscitate the unresponsive child. The child was pronounced deceased. The deceased child's mother was called to the location and she had no reason to believe there was any foul play. The deceased child's father was responsible for supervising the deceased child and siblings.

The Department's investigation determined that the deceased child resided with the parents and three siblings. The deceased child's father had all four children in his care when he was visiting paternal relatives. The deceased child's father allowed the deceased child and three siblings to play outside without any adult supervision while he remained inside the great-grandparent's home. A man-made pond was located on the property near the play area and the children could go through a gate to get to the pond. One of the young siblings went inside the home which prompted the father to check on the children. He could not locate the youngest child and the siblings could not account for his

whereabouts. The deceased child's father noticed something floating in the pond and discovered the deceased child's body. The family attempted lifesaving measures, but the child could not be revived. The deceased child's father admitted he was aware that the deceased child had a tendency to wander off and needed to be closely monitored. He was aware that the deceased child could fit through the gate to gain access to the pond and there were no safety measures in place to prevent the deceased child from accessing the pond. The deceased child's three siblings were young and did not have the capacity or maturity to be responsible for watching the deceased child while they were outside without adult supervision. The deceased child's mother was not present when the drowning occurred and played no role in the fatal event. During the investigation, the deceased child's father threatened to self-harm with a firearm during a dispute with the mother. The deceased child's siblings were within close proximity when the father brandished the firearm inside their home. Law enforcement responded to the home and did not make any arrests. A safety plan was implemented with the parents and the father agreeing to leave the home. The deceased child's father and mother agreed for the father to only have supervised contact with the children. The deceased child's parents accepted the services offered by Family Based Safety Services. Law enforcement was not pursuing any criminal charges. The medical examiner did not find any trauma and the child's injuries were consistent with drowning.

The law enforcement investigation was pending at the time the Department's investigation closed. They were not pursuing any criminal charges and would close their case when they received the final autopsy report.

The medical examiner conducted an autopsy, but the final report was not available when the Department completed its investigation. The preliminary report indicates that the cause of death was a drowning and the manner of death as accidental.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed allegations that the deceased child's father committed Neglectful Supervision of the deceased child, which led to the child's death. The child was unsupervised when he drowned in a small retention pond. The deceased child had been in the care of the father prior to his passing, and the father failed to provide the needed supervision and was not protective.

The Department confirmed allegations that the deceased child's father committed Neglectful Supervision of the three siblings. The father brandished a firearm in an attempt to self-harm as he blamed himself for his child's drowning. The siblings were within close proximity and were in danger of being seriously injured.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:
06/05/2023 - Safety Assessment - Initial - Safe with Plan
07/20/2023 - Safety Assessment - Reassessment - Safe with Plan
07/20/2023 - Risk Assessment -- Moderate

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Family Preservation

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Counseling and Evaluation,Parent/Caregiver Training

Other Services:

The parents were provided with grief counseling resources and accepted the services offered by Family Based Safety Services.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The surviving siblings are residing with the mother and father agreed to move out of the home. The father's visits with the siblings are being supervised.

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:

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.