Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 112053082

County of Child's Residence: HARRIS

Gender: Female

Age: 0 Year(s) 11 Month(s)

Date of Death: 08/24/2024

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: Hernandez,Aniyah

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 08/24/2024

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report notifying it of a fatal event after emergency medical services transported an unresponsive infant to the hospital where she was pronounced deceased. The deceased child's mother reportedly left the deceased child alone in the bathtub for approximately 10 minutes and when she returned to the bathroom the child was not breathing. The mother contacted 911 and did not attempt life-saving measures. The mother was arrested for homicide by law enforcement.

The Department's investigation determined that the family had an open Family-Based Safety Services case when the fatality occurred. The mother resided with the child and the child's four siblings. The mother was going to bathe the child when she placed her in the bathtub with the water running. The two older siblings were in their bedroom and the two youngest siblings were playing in the downstairs area when the mother heard a commotion. The mother left the child in the bathtub alone to check in on the sibling's downstairs. She returned to the bathroom to find the child submerged in the water and unresponsive. The mother contacted emergency medical services who transported the child to the local hospital where the child was pronounced deceased. The deceased child's father, who was also the father of the two youngest siblings, was separated from the mother and was not present when the drowning occurred. The oldest siblings' father was not part of the household and played no role in the fatal event. Law enforcement confirmed that there had been a previous near-drowning incident with the child in mid-June after the mother had left the infant in the bathtub and emergency medical services had responded. The child had recovered from the near-drowning and no charges were pursued by law enforcement. Law enforcement also shared that the child's father had been previously arrested for assaulting the mother and a restraining order was in place to prevent the father from

having contact with the mother.

The medical examiner completed the autopsy, and the final report indicated the cause of death as a drowning and manner of death as undetermined.

Law enforcement completed an investigation, and they were not pursuing any charges against the mother. It was also found that the mother had not been arrested as stated in the initial report made.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed the mother committed Neglectful Supervision of the deceased child, which led to the child's death.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 08/25/2024: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe with plan
2.) 08/25/2024: Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Safe with plan
3.) 09/03/2024: Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Safe with plan
4.) 12/09/2024: Safety Assessment - Case Closure: Safe with plan

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Very High

Case Action:

Family Preservation

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Counseling and Evaluation

Other Services:

The parents agreed to accept the grief counseling resources and services offered by Family-Based Safety Services.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The parents initially agreed to secure a parental child safety placement for the two youngest children with a relative caregiver, however another relative agreed to be an in-home monitor and a safety plan was completed in which the mother's contact with the children would be supervised. The family agreed to continue participating in services offered by Family-Based Safety Services.

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): 09/29/2023

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report notifying it of concerns after law enforcement responded numerous times for domestic disturbances in the home. Law enforcement had been to the home five times since January 2023 for domestic disputes between the deceased child's mother and the deceased child's father. The mother and father were arguing, and two of the older siblings believe it's their job to intervene. The two siblings tried to take the phone from their stepfather, and he slapped the sibling's hand. The mother then punches the father in the face while he is holding the deceased child. Law enforcement responded to the home and arrested the mother for the assault. Law enforcement was planning to file for a protective order to keep the mother away from the home. According to the sibling, her mother and stepfather have been fighting for the past three years.

The Department's investigation determined the deceased child's mother resided in the home with her five children and the father to the three youngest children. The mother admitted that she struck the deceased child's father after he hit one of the siblings' hands. The sibling was holding the deceased child when the father struck her hand. The father then started strangling the mother and one of the children intervened. The mother was arrested and was released on bond with a 60-day protective order in place. The two oldest siblings went to stay with a family friend and the three youngest children remained with their father after mother's arrest. The deceased child and four siblings were observed, and they did not sustain any injuries during the altercation between the mother and father. Law enforcement described the parents' relationship as toxic, and they have a history of engaging in "mutual combat." The father to the two oldest siblings is actively involved and visits with his children. He also had history of domestic violence during his previous relationship with the mother.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed the mother committed Neglectful Supervision of the deceased child and three siblings.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 10/01/2023: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Moderate

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The parents agreed to accept the services offered by Family-Based Safety Services.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The parents participated in a Family Team Meeting and agreed to accept the services offered by Family Based Safety Services. The deceased child and four siblings remained in the care of the mother. The protective order prevented the mother and father from having contact with each other.

The case was transferred to Family-Based Safety Services. At the time of the fatality, the Department was planning on closing the case as the parents had successfully completed counseling and evaluation services as well as parenting skills training. The mother and father of the youngest three children were no longer residing together but able to co-parent.

After the fatality occurred, the Family-Based Safety Services case was not closed and continued as the parents agreed to complete additional services.

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.