Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 108329848

County of Child's Residence: MARTIN

Gender: Female

Age: 1 Year(s) 0 Month(s)

Date of Death: 07/22/2022

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: Neufeld,Sara

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 7/22/2022

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report emergency medical staff said the deceased child was found in a five-gallon bucket of Pinesol and Clorox. EMS arrived on the scene to find deceased child unresponsive, dressed in clean, dry clothing and laying next to her mother. EMS gave deceased child medication to revive her and transported deceased child to the hospital. Deceased child did not have any other signs of abuse or neglect observed to her body at the time of the incident.

The Department's investigation determined the deceased child's mother admitted to law enforcement and CPI that she left deceased child in a room with her young siblings to nap on the floor. Mother left the room to make an "icee" for one of deceased child's siblings, who was having trouble getting to sleep. She did not wait for deceased child to fall asleep. When she returned she found deceased child, upside down in the five-gallon bucket. Deceased child's father was working away from the home at the time of the incident. The family had ten children in the home, including deceased child.

An autopsy was performed by the medical examiner and the cause of death was drowning. No additional concerns were noted. No signs of abuse or neglect were observed to the body.

Law enforcement conducted an investigation and were not pursuing any criminal charges.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed the deceased child's mother committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child. The actions committed by deceased child's mother led to the child's death. The mother left the deceased child in a room with an open five-gallon bucket of Pinesol and Clorox. The child crawled to the five- gallon bucket, fell in it and drowned. Deceased child's mother left the bucket, filled with solution, in plain sight and accessible to deceased child. Deceased child was just learning to pull up to things and stand.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 07/22/2022: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Moderate

Case Action:

Close

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

Counseling referrals were provided to the family

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The family was informed of water safety, car seat safety, gun safety, furniture safety, as well as SIDS prevention and Safe Sleep practices.

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:

NA

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 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.